



## The Vision of Dr. Ambedkar on Building Nation through Education

RAJNIKANT S. DODIYA

M.A., M.Ed., UGC-NET(Edu.)

PhD Scholar, Education Department

Sardar Patel University

### Abstract

*The study includes the directive ideas and thoughts of Dr. B R Ambedkar on nation building through education. Dr Ambedkar was the scholar personality of India who gave distinct insights and directive ideas for national development and empowerment. He always considered education an important tool for progress and uplifting of the lower classes of the society. He strongly believed in “More education for more chances for progress”. According to Ambedkar, education is not only a means for development of a child and getting a good job, rather he believed education as a powerful means for bringing necessary and revolutionary changes in society. He wanted education as a tool to liberate people from ignorance and illiteracy. Considering this matter, the researcher created some major objectives and questions for the study. The study is of qualitative type done through content analysis method. The researcher has analyzed and interpreted major thoughts of Dr. Ambedkar and derived educational thoughts on nation building and development including social, political and economic empowerment.*

**Keywords:** Nation Building, Education, Vision

### Introduction

Education works as a great means for building a nation. Education is the first and foremost thing in human life. The responsibility of building better and easy life of a human being is on Education. A human being becomes complete when he gets education. It is the big medium of progress and upliftment of human kind. It leads human beings towards social awareness, equality and consciousness. Education affects the routine life of human beings and plays an important role in changing and improving the life style of an individual. It is the source of power, knowledge and

wisdom through which any nation can be empowered itself socially, politically and economically. It is the way of getting freedom out of the unnecessary and unwanted forces against the humanity. Education nurtures a human being to be knowledgeable, free and capable of contributing to the nation in the best possible way. It is the prerequisite of any person of any society of any country. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had direct interest in education and he expressed very distinct ideas regarding the building of a nation through education. He was a visionary and a scholar personality of his time and today also he is considered as one of the best minds of the world. His educational thoughts are very directive for a national life and establishing the national identity.

### **Dr. Ambedkar as a Visionary**

*“Dr Ambedkar is one of the world’s greatest defender and philosopher of human rights. He was a true visionary, contributing to a global evolution of this idea, to the legal enshrinement of rights, and to this day, he continues to inspire human rights defenders.”* (Dr Corinne Lennox; Dr Ambedkar: a visionary for human rights; 2016)

Dr. Ambedkar was a great scholar, a social revolutionary, a national leader, a humanistic thinker and a great visionary. Most people think Dr Ambedkar as the Indian Constitution maker and a leader of lower caste people; but he was more than that. His identity can be defined as a great visionary of India. He envisioned a developed India socially, economically and educationally. According to him, all sections of the society should be developed and empowered equally. He strongly advocated for social justice and envisioned social equality. He contributed to the nation in all round ways whether it is social, political, economic and educational. His vision for building a nation and establishing the National identity is very relevant to the contemporary India. He dreamt of socially, economically and politically empowered India where every individual can contribute to the development of the country. He asked for a well established social system along with human dignity and equality. His vision for nation influences many distinct spheres of the country i.e. social, economic, politics and education. It was his visionary thinking that helped India establishing democracy and fundamental rights for all human beings. He believed that the progress of an individual should not be interrupted by so-called social system and poverty. His vision was to eradicate the evils of caste system from India and establish a modern social system that allows human to be free from so-called social status.

### **Dr. Ambedkar’s Thoughts on Nation Building**

Dr. Ambedkar gave many directive thoughts for nation building. He believed that we are not a nation yet and we have to think over the ways and means to create nationalism. It is invariable to remove the anti-social thoughts from the minds of people. He advised people, *“Educate, Agitate and Organize”*. It is only by these three things the people can uplift themselves in order to give their true contribution to the national life. For him, politics was nothing but the instrument to effect social change

and real power he conceived as the power to control and transform anything. A true democratic system is the need of the nation in order to succeed in all round ways. He emphasized on honest and devoted leaders for establishing such a true democracy in the country. According to him, it is important that the nation has its own identity. People are required to think that they are Indians first and Indians last. This feeling towards the nation is invariable to be developed in every person. The social discrimination that brings separation in social life and divides people needs to be removed from its deep root. According to him, a new India can emerge only after this. For this, education is the best means that makes the people aware and helps them unite with each other.

### **Dr. Ambedkar's Educational Thoughts**

For Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, education means not only to become literate, getting degrees and achieving jobs for a good living. Rather it is a means for bringing desired changes in the society and an instrument in order to fight against the social evils like injustice, partiality, exploitation and oppression remained in the society for a long ago. He gave tremendous importance to education as he considered it the major foundation of progress. This visionary man wanted the people of the country to cultivate the values of equality, justice, morality and freedom among themselves which is only possible through education. People who are educated with these values can contribute to the nation and help in nation building. In Dr. Ambedkar's words, "*Education is that which make men fearless, teach unity, make understand their birth rights and teach men to struggle and fight for the freedom. Education is a revolution. If education can't serve these purposes, then such education is a dead one and better it should be burnt or set to fire.*" (Dr. Sharma, B.K., 1993) This kind of education is the needed for nation building. The educated and organized people can give utmost contribution to the progress of the nation. A true education teaches us equality and morality and makes us capable as a citizen of the nation. Further Ambedkar considered education for character building. He observed, "*An educated man without character and humility is more dangerous than a beast. If his education is detrimental to the welfare of the poor, the educated man is a curse to society... Character is more important than education.*" (Shastri, Shankaranand, 1992)

Ambedkar was in favour of national language as it establishes national unity, equality and identity. The people who are downtrodden and backwards are because of the lack of good and enough education. He wanted compulsory education to them in order to uplift them and unite them. It is the lack of education that the society is full of inequalities, disparities and differences among people. Enough and appropriate educational facilities can bring a revolution in their life and can establish a progressive human society. Dr. Ambedkar wanted the people become self-reliant rather than believing in false traditions, ill feelings, fear, hypocrisy, etc. He strongly opposed the education that gives birth to irrationality and insolence. He was in favour of the education of human values, morality, social unity and brotherhood among all. *The basic theme of Ambedkar's philosophy of education is: inculcating the values of*

*liberty, equality, fraternity, justice and moral character among the boys and girls of all shades.*” (Chengte, 2016) This type of education can lead towards to the building of a developed nation.

### **Building Nation through Education**

According to Dr. Ambedkar, the claims of the country should be given preference comparing to the personal claims. Country first must be the motto. Proper education should be given in order to cultivate this motto among the young students of the country. In his words, *“We may forgo material benefits of civilization, but we cannot forgo our right and opportunity to reap the benefits of the highest education to the fullest extent...”* (Ambedkar, 1927) Education for nation building should be the long term aim of the school education. The school curriculum should include syllabus regarding patriotism and feeling towards the nation. The education provided in the universities and colleges needs to be improved according to the requirements of the nation building. The young students in higher education institutions should be given opportunities without any social partiality to the demand of the national development. They should be taught the values of morality, impartiality, universal brotherhood, nationality, citizenship, national unity, etc. in schools and colleges. The concept of the whole nation should be expanded and taught to all individuals living in every nook and corner of the country. This will develop national unity among them which later on help the nation building in positive direction.

Education, in Dr. Ambedkar’s words, has an important role in building a nation. It has an immense influence on the human minds. It makes an individual knowledgeable and aware of the world around him and the country in which he is living. Dr. Ambedkar wanted education to be expanded and reached to the country people so that they become knowledgeable, skillful, innovative and creative. Such creative and skillful people can contribute to the nation building. Dr. Ambedkar believed that a true education can instill the feeling of oneness among the people of the country which binds together those who have it. It also overrides all the differences arising among the people. This type of feeling of oneness is invariable if we want to realize the nation building in the real sense. A real education never teaches us to become a part of any one group or religion or caste. *“Dr Ambedkar set up colleges through People Education Society which made education available to all irrespective of class or caste. He made arrangement for morning and evening classes which benefitted thousands of young men and women.”* (S.R. Darapuri; Dr. Ambedkar: Maker of Modern India; 2015) It teaches togetherness of people contributing along with their all abilities towards the development of the nation. Dr. Ambedkar strongly recommended good and enough education to the poor and backward people in order to build a nation.

### **Conclusion**

To sum up, it can be said that education is the basic requirement for nation building. People of any nation if are educated and united, they can contribute better

than others. Education is the first and foremost weapon for realizing the vision of national identity. Dr. Ambedkar was the genius and scholar personality of all time contributing to the movement of establishing national life and progress. His educational thoughts for nation building majorly include social equality, economic growth and political development and thus realizing the national identity.

## **References**

1. Corinne, Lennox; (2016). *Dr Ambedkar: a visionary for human rights*; An Article retrieved from <https://talkinghumanities.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2016/04/13/dr-ambedkar-a-visionary-for-human-rights/>
2. Sharma, B.K., (1993). *Dr. Ambedkar: and his Educational Thoughts* in Dr. Rao, R.B. (Ed), *Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar*, Chugu Publications, Allahabad
3. Shastri, Shankaranand (1992), "*Three Commandments or Golden Slogans*", B. R. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Commemoration Vol. Wadala : Dr. Ambedkar College of Commerce and Economics, p. 17.
4. Chengte, Prahlad, (2016). *Dr. Ambedkar's Empowerment on Educational Thoughts: Some Review*, A Research Paper, Vol.6, Issue 1, January 2016.
5. Ambedkar, B. R. (1927). *Speech on the Bombay University Act Amendment Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council*.
6. S.R. Darapuri; (2015). *Dr. Ambedkar: Maker of Modern India*; An Article retrieved from <https://www.countercurrents.org/darapuri010415.htm>