



Analytical Study of the Political Safeguards Suggested by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar for Untouchables in India

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Abstract:-Dr. B. R. Ambedkar struggled throughout his life for the upliftment of Untouchables. Untouchables were kept aside from the mainstream of the human development. In the Sixth sitting of First round table Conference, as the Representatives of the Downtrodden Class, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, and Rao Bahadur Srinivasan, presented the Safeguards for the upliftment of the untouchables. To get untouchables into the mainstream of human development, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar spent his whole life. Under the Chairmanship of British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald in the Sixth Siting of First Round Table Conference which was held on 16th January, 1931, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Rao Bahadur Srinivasan, who represented the downtrodden Class of India, submitted a Scheme of Political Safeguards for the protection of the Depressed Classes in the future Constitution of a self-governing India. Equal citizenship, Free Enjoyment of Equal Rights, Adequate representation in the Legislative Council and Adequate representation in the services were the safeguard suggested in the future Constitution of India by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as representative of Downtrodden Class of India. He not only recommended the several safeguards for the Untouchables and but also suggested how to implement them in the future Constitution. He argued that due to this Safeguard, untouchables will get an opportunity to use their full strength for the building of Nation they will able to do their best for the Nation.

Key Words: Safeguard, Untouchables, Downtrodden Class, Minority Class

Introduction:- Indian Society is divided into the various Class and Caste. Inequality in Class and Caste affected on the freedom and brotherhood of Indian people. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar sowed the seeds of equality and freedom for the untouchables through this Safeguard. He protected the wish and need of the equal opportunity to the untouchables by providing them Safeguard. He broke down chains of slavery of Untouchables, by providing them Safeguards, in the future Constitution of India. According to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Muslims, Sikhs, Jain, Parsi and downtrodden Class of India are all in Minority and all of them should get equal rights as Majority Hindu will get in Independent India. He explained in detail the downtrodden peoples are very weak in the Social, Economic and Political condition is very weak than the other minority. Therefore these untouchables are needed more protection than any other Minority. The Safeguard which suggested by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in the future constitution is the perfect solution for the upliftment of untouchables and to provide them equal status, Opportunity in the Indian Society.

1. **Safeguard for Untouchables:-** Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Rao Bahadur Srinivasan

were the representative of Untouchables, submitted the plan for the safeguard of Untouchables, in the Sixth Sitting of Round Table conference which was held on 16th January 1931. These Safeguards are as below:

i) Equal citizenship: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar suggested that before majority rule is established the emancipation of untouchability must be protected. It must not be left to the will of the Majority. Here Dr. B. R. Ambedkar suggested that the Equal citizenship must be protected by the constitution which will come into existence in future. Rights of Untouchables should not depend on the will of touchable.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar suggested establishing the equality in the society before the establishment of the rule of Majority (touchable) for the safety of Untouchables.

ii) Free Enjoyment of Equal Rights. :- He stated that the only declaration of the equal rights to all, will not be sufficient but practically it should be implemented in the society. Even if the untouchables try to use their rights, they will have to face the opposing of Intouchables. To protect from their interference, in the enjoyments of these declared rights of the untouchables, touchable's should get the pains and penalties.

iii) Punishment for Instigation or Promoting a Boycott:- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar protected the untouchables from the social boycott from the touchable by the suggestion of legal provisions on the same ground of the Burma Anti-Boycott Act, 1922.¹

iv) Sufficient Representation in the Legislatures: Sufficient Representation in the legislature is the key of Welfare of Untouchables. According to him, Untouchables must be given sufficient political power to influence legislative and executive action for the purpose of securing their welfare. In the view of this, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar demanded, the following provisions shall be made in the electoral law so as to give them (Untouchables)

A) Right to adequate representation in the Legislatures of the Country, Provincial and Central.

B) Right to elect their own men as their representatives, by adult suffrage, and by separate electorates for the first ten years.²

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had given the clear plan, about what India should do, for equality in the Indian Society after the Independence of India. Without approval of these safeguards, in the future Constitution of India, Untouchables and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar were not ready to accept the future constitution of India and the rule of Majority. Here we come to the conclusion that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the real leader of the Untouchables and he wanted to abolish the untouchability from the society and for that he suggested the plan in Round Table Conference in 1931.

Importance of the Safeguard for untouchables:-

1. To protect the need and wish of Untouchables:- Indian society based on caste system. The caste system has been decided in early that which business is to be chosen for the particular caste. There was no freedom to the people to choose their work according to their need and wish. Therefore untouchables were forced to give their services to touchable, according to touchable needs. There was no value for the untouchables need and wish. But, because of the Safeguard, Untouchables need and wish will be protected.

2. To provide the opportunity of the creativity to untouchables:- Because of the Safeguard, Untouchables will get the opportunity to performed their skill of work. It would be beneficial for themselves as well as the society. Creativity of untouchables will help to development of Social and Economic Condition of India.

3. To create the Nationalist feeling rather than the feeling of caste: Because of the safeguard untouchables could able to take education according to their interest and ability. They could able to come out from the limit of their caste. Because of the compulsory and unwanted work, Untouchables could able to throw out their inferiority complex and they will able to do their work confidently.

4. Risk of religion conversion:- If the untouchable will not get their sufficient rights in their own religion then they will try to choose some other option to get their rights. To get their rights and to live the life without any burden they could choose the way of conversion of religion. Hindu religion will be the responsible for untouchables conversion in another religion. To stop the conversation of untouchables in another religion, Dr. B. R .Ambedkar suggested that these untouchables should have the safeguard to fulfill their Social and Economic needs.

5. To restore the Unity among the Hindu:- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar explain that Hindus are divided in caste and class. Due to this, Hindus lost their Unity. Due to the division of Hindu in Class and Caste, Hindu religion became weak as compare to the Shikkhs and Muslims. If one Shikkhs got in problem then for his help all other Shikkhs will run for his help and if one Muslim got in problem then for his help all other Muslim will run for his help but same thing will not happen with Hindu because Hindu are divided into class and caste. Hindu first will try to find out whether the victimized is belong to my Caste or Class, and if not, than Hindu will not ready to stand for his help. This kind of tendency would be dangerous for the unity of Hindu. Due to this, Hindu will become the Weak.³

Need of Depressed Classes In Cabinet:- Dr B.R. Ambedkar Suggested that to make the policy for Depressed class, members from the same Class should have rights to enter in the Cabinet. This is possible only if they have seats in the Cabinet.⁴ Government can take the favorable decision to depressed class. It will be helpful for the upliftment to Depress Class.

Safeguard of Minority and Depressed Class (Untouchables):- While demanding the safeguard for the untouchables Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had given the Clear picture about how Depressed Class is different from the other Minority and why these Untouchables are required more protection than any other Minority of India. He Claimed that other Minorities have better Social and Economic Status than the untouchables. Untouchables are exploited by their own Hindu Upper Caste people. To save them from the exploitation of Hindu upper Caste people, these untouchables are required the Safeguard for their upliftment. The Depressed Classes as well as other Minorities, had fear about in future constitution of India that Majority rule will be established by orthodox Hindus, and the rights of Depressed Class, as well as Minorities, will be denied.⁵

Equality for all untouchables :- When he was demanding the equal status for the untouchables at the same time he also warn to untouchables that there should not be inequalities among the untouchables and therefore when he was invited for the speech in the Bhangi Colony, on 7 November 1937, he suggested to the Mahar Caste People that Mahar Caste people must give them equal status to the Mang and Bhangi People and they should socially merge with them.⁶ It is proved that he was the leader of all untouchables and Depressed Class and he wanted to established equality among all section of the society. He also understood the importance of the safeguard for the upliftment of the untouchables and therefore he demanded the safeguard in the future constitution of India.

Independence of Majority should not be the Slavery of Minority:- While demanding the safeguard in the future constitution of India, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had taken the care of Minority and untouchables. He had given the speech 2nd January 1940 at Karad where he was invited for the acceptance of HONOR from the Karad Municipal Corporation for his social and Political work. In that speech, he explained that the demands of the safeguard of Minority come from the fear that Majority will rule on them and their basic rights will not be granted from the Majority, therefore it is our responsibility to inculcate the awareness among the both about their responsibility.⁷ Dr. B. R. Ambedkar wanted Independence for all. All community including untouchables should able to enjoy the fruits of Independence and for that, he demanded the safeguard for the untouchables in the future constitution of India.

Necessities of the Approval of Untouchables to the Constitution of India: on 18th July 1942 at Nagpur, All India Dalit Class conference passed the resolution about their demand. These demands were as below:

1. Approval of Dalit Class to the Constitution of India.
2. Constitution of India should accept that Untouchables Class is separate and independent from the Hindu and this Class has the important place in the National life of India.

3. New Constitution should have the new policy for the protection of downtrodden people.⁸

He had taken care that in the Independence of India, should not be the rule of Hindus only. With the provision of safeguards to downtrodden Class in the Constitution of India, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had protected the basic rights of this class. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had recommended the Safeguard for the Untouchables to get the opportunity for their Social and Economic development.

Untouchables required three types of Power:- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar said that Untouchables must have the Manpower, Wealth Power and Mental Power. He said that Untouchables did not have these three powers, because they were in Minority and unorganized. Economic sources were denied to Untouchables and therefore they did not have Economic Power. These Untouchables had not mental power because they were living their life under pressure from touchable and Elite people.⁹ Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had suggested that to have Man Power, Wealth Power, and Mental Power, to untouchables for their upliftments.

Protection from the Imperialism of Hindu:- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar explained that why Untouchables were not involved in the Freedom movement led by Congress because it was the fear among the Untouchables that after Independent of India, Untouchables will be forced to live under the supremacy of touchable. Untouchables wanted freedom not only from the British Imperialism but also from the Hindu imperialism of Brahman and Baniya. Therefore he recommended the special protection for the Untouchables.¹⁰

Buddha Religion:- With all above Constitutional safeguard, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar also wanted to convert untouchable Hindus, into Buddhism. He believed that even only Constitutional safeguards are not sufficient for the upliftment of the Untouchables. Buddhism rejected the Varna System and gives equal opportunity to all the people.¹¹ For the freedom, equality, brotherhood, and Justice he converted himself into Buddhist from Hindu with his followers. He stated that Character is the only parameter to assign the people. Varna system should not be the tool of the assessment of human beings. Human beings success should be assessed on the basis of person's passion and compassion with his duty. He also believed that for the moral development of human beings and for the rejection of Varna System Buddhism is the best solution.

Conclusion:- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a true representative of the downtrodden people of India. Mahatma Gandhi who, disapproved to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as representative and emancipator of downtrodden Class, but his role in roundtable Conference proved that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was representative of downtrodden people and he is the only their Emancipator. He fought many struggles as like Mahad

Chavadar Tank Satyagraha, Kalaram Temple Entry Satyagraha to get the equal rights to the untouchables. In the future Constitution of India, he suggested the Equal Citizenship, Equal Rights and sufficient representation to the Untouchables in the future Constitution of India. As like Dr. B. R. Ambedkar no other National leader of India had taken the care of Untouchables. Political Safeguards which suggested by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar for the Untouchables was one revolutionary work. Because of this Untouchables got an opportunity for their upliftment.

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