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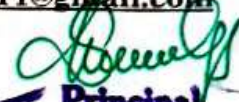


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Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Views on Education

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ABSTRACT: Ambedkar was a multifaceted personality, a philosopher, a politician, a social reformer and an educationist. This paper aims at Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's views on Education. He knew that education was the necessary precondition for the reconstruction of the society on the principles of equality and justice. He fought for the education of masses without discrimination of caste and sex. Education ought to be cheapened in all possible ways and to the greatest possible extent. He believed that education was the most important means of raising the people's standard of living. His most commonly recognised slogan was "Educate, Unite, and Struggle". The present paper attains to understand the Dr. B R Ambedkar's views on education with the uniform education system in India.

1. Introduction

Ambedkar believed that Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of everyone and made an attempt to achieve this objective through his educational project. His thoughts serve as a beacon light for the new generation.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Philosophy of Education

Ambedkar believed that education is a movement. If it does not fulfil its objectives, it is useless. True education cradles humanity, generates sources of livelihood, imparts wisdom and imbibes us with egalitarianism. He gave prime importance to education in his life. He wanted to reconstruct the structure of Indian society. He considered education as the basis of social, economic and political revolution. For him, education alone creates a sense of new thinking and awakening among oppressed people in India. He wanted it for all, and not restricted only to a few classes of society. As a humanist, in his view, education must focus on serving human interests and achieving social amelioration. It is only through education that one could enlighten oneself and organize social forces against oppressive elements of traditional societies in India.

Dr. Ambedkar's educational philosophy is seen in the three principles which he inherited from his master Gautam Buddha. They are Pradnya (Knowledge or Wisdom), Sheel (Character) and Karuna (Compassion). He gave lot of importance to these three principles and tried to imbibe them in masses.

He changed the entire mindset of the lower strata of the society towards the education. His philosophy of education was emancipator in nature and aims at "Educate, Agitate and Organise". The policy therefore ought to be to make higher education as cheap to the lower classes as it can possibly be made. If all these communities are to be brought to the level of equality, then the only remedy is to adopt the principle of equality

Objectives of education

Ambedkar's social-philosophical views rested on the bedrock of egalitarianism. Human dignity and self-respect were central to his social philosophy. He wanted to use education to establish justice, equality, fraternity, freedom and fearlessness in society. He wanted to replace the birth-based society with a value-based one. It goes without saying that these moral values can be promoted only through education. Ambedkar's objectives of education were the same as his social, economic and political objectives. He was a strong proponent of logical and scientific education. Purpose of Education is to moralize and socialize the people.

Functions of University Education

The aim and functions of University Education should be to see that the teaching carried on there is suited to adults; that it is scientific, detached and impartial in character; that it aims not so much at filling the mind of the student with facts or theories as at calling forth his own individuality, and stimulating him to mental effort.