

Impact of Dalit Movement: In Indian Context

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Abstract

The violation of Human rights in our country India is one of the major problems since from centuries. History testifies the presence of cleavages in every society, characterized by atrocities, discrimination, exploitation and subordination that raised people demand for justice and equality. Basically, it's the caste and Varna system of social stratification which promotes the social violation of Dalit Human Rights. The Dalits are also called Atishudra, Panchma or outcast and the most depressed and marginalized section of Indian society. Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar started a movement called Dalit Movement in India. He struggled against the discrimination, castism and torture ship in India. Dr. Ambedkar was a scholar as much as a "Man of Action" he in fact gave an inspiring self confidence to Dalits and also he was in favour of educator and equality and equal rights to people. The Dalit movement is also begun as a protest movement in India. In this paper I am going to discuss about the impact of Dalit movement in India, its nature and practices its successes problems and challenges.

Key Words

Dalit, Dalit movement, Struggle for Rights, Marginalized, Violation.

Introduction

The major problem in our country is violation of human rights. The socio- economic milieu of Indian society is inherently hostile towards protection of human rights of Dalits. Societal violation of Dalit human right is promoted by the caste and Varna system of social stratification. History testifies the presence of social cleavages in Indian society, in terms of caste, class, gender and the likes. Such cleavages has changed the entire social fabric of Indian society, whereby the exploited section, be it the Dalit, Adivasis or Women have been systematically pushed to the periphery by the traditional Brahmanical structure of oppression. Dalits are basically those peoples who are socially, politically, economically exploited through the centuries. They are not allowed to enter in the temple or any worship place. To overcome these there is a movement started by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar known as Dalit movement, which in India has grown from the desire for freedom from subjugation. In this context , Dalit movement has not only proposed Dalit emancipation but also by implication the libration of all people suffering from oppression and repression in general.

Objective & Research Methodology of the Study:-

This study is basically an exploratory study which is mostly based on the secondary data of information for systematization analysis and conclusion. The constitution of India, relevant magazines, journals, books etc have been made use as secondary data. The main objective of the study is:-

- Impact of Dalit movement in India.
- Role of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in Dalit movement.
- To find out present socio-economic and political structure of Dalits.
- To know awareness of Human Rights of Dalits in present scenario.

Result & Discussion:-

Who Are Dalits?

In India Dalit is not a new word. Basically it was used in 1930's as a Hindi and Marathi translation of "Depressed Class" the term the British used for what are now called the "Schedule Caste". Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar has chosen the term "Broken Man" as English translation of Dalits in his article "The Untouchable" in 1948. Buta Singh the ex chairman National Commission for Schedule Caste said that the word Dalit is unconstitutional. Dalits the group of people who constitute the last category of castes in the Varnasama theory. There are a lot of traditional definitions of the term Dalit as given by the different scholars. According to the Indian constitution "Dalits" are those people who under the category "Schedule caste."

Factors that Led to Dalit movement

Since immemorial the Hindu society is based on four Varna's. Later on innumerable castes and sub-castes came into existence because of violation of caste rules and various other reasons. The so called untouchables who were originally outside the caste system came to known as outcaste and formed the lower caste whose a single touch even a sight was treated as despicable to the caste Hindus. Dalits were the worst exploited and oppressed people in India. The "Broken Men" who are Dalits were deliberately degraded as untouchables by the Brahmanic forces have never accepted their position. They started protesting against this untouchable and at first their response to untouchability came into the shape of Bhakti Cult. The Dalit Saints like Ravidas, Chokhamela, Nandana and several others were attracted towards "Bhakti Cult".

Dalit Movement in Present Scenario

In present scenario the Dalit movements find its origin in 19th century when Dalit started to change in their lives and their aspiration began to be taken seriously. A lot of foreigners came forward and taken initiative towards Dalit movement. Actually this Dalit movement has been started in India to save the dignity of Dalits over upper caste of India. Dalit movement is basically the struggle of the sub merged communities of India, who began their movement in India with their basic demand for equality because they struggle to combat inequality in society as having firm belief in the ideal of "Equality".

Status of Dalits in Independence India

Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar has a real visionary towards the development of upliftment of Indian Dalits and depressed caste peoples. His main aim was to uproot the evil of deep rooted caste system , uplifts the status of down trodden society , create honor amongst so called higher castes and to transform the country from uncivilized to civilized state. He included his article in constitution for the betterment of the Dalits. In today's scenario there is an overall development of these disadvantaged groups in the country. Untouchability has reduced their socio-economic and political conditions have improved. Presently Dalits have become a powerful political force in India and enjoy greater access to education and economy than ever before time. They are using their voting rights. Their political awareness regarding various political activities has been increased and they are participating in all programs and activities. Now, a day's government is also making various decisions relating to their rights and privileges. The honor for Dalits in forward society has also increased. As today we don't ask a person who are you and who sits besides us belongs from which caste. In present scenario both Dalits and Non-Dalits are enjoying together there is no discrimination between Dalit and Non-Dalit in fact nobody is bothering about knowing the caste and identify of human being. This only becomes possible due to the efforts of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. But still it is not fully abolished we can still see the discrimination between Dalits and Non-Dalits in very rural areas of our country. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar introduced caste annihilation system in India. Indian Hindu orthodoxy stood by MANU. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar stood for Dalits and Women development in India.

Conclusion

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was a great human right leader; he was a fighter for human rights not only for the oppressed section of Dalit but for all the Indian caste, workers farmers and for women. He was basically India's foremost human rights activist in 20th century. Untouchability is a crime against humanity. Our Indian constitution is designed in such a way that all citizens are equal. But still we Indians are facing discrimination among Dalits and Non-Dalits. The Dalits also will have to come forward and they have to labour hard in all social, economical, educational and political area to compete with the other members of the society. The matter does not ends here but I must want to conclude this article with the message of Swami Vivekananda "Arise, awake and rest until the goal reached". So its our

duty to respect each other equally and try our best to abolish the untouchability and hatred among us, so that we can proudly say-

“MERA BHARAT MAHAN”.

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