



DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR : GUIDING LIGHT FOR STUDENTS

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INTRODUCTION :

“Man becomes weak and dependent on the want of undernourishment, so without education he becomes a slave of others.”

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, in his thrusting voice, appealed socially depressed classes “to educate, to unite and to agitate”. Thus, he is the noble example of endless struggle.

What does Education exactly mean?

It may seem exaggerative to see that the Milind mahavidyalaya, founded by him has greatly helped the depressed classes. Dr. Ambedkar always believed that an education is the panacea for these classes. The objective of being educated is not to serve the upper classes and not to be the victim of atrocities but it is a means to contribute in the upliftment and betterment of oneself and nation building respectively.

Education and Educational Institutions :

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar says that education is the sacred institute. The schools make a noble citizen. They require like-minded, noble, dispassionate and kind

hearted teachers. The teaching class is the charioteer of a nation because he holds the threads of education. A teacher plays an important role in social reforms. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar cautioned the government not to hand over the reign of education to the Brahmins because Brahmins despise socially downtrodden people.

Despite of this fact, the majority of professors and teachers belonged to Brahmins when Dr. Ambedkar founded Siddharth College, Mumbai in 1945. It is a well-known fact that Dr. Ambedkar was against the Brahmanical philosophy but not against the Brahmins. The victims of the Brahmanical philosophy were those who believed in Vedas-Smriti-Varna system and casteism. He said that Buddhism is the best panacea to counter this conservative philosophy. Dr. Ambedkar says, “Though the God may or may not exist in this world, it is not a matter of thought. But all the actions that take place in the world bear the fruits of human actions. Very few educated



people, taking due advantage of the ignorant majoritarian class and keeping them engaged in performing religious rituals and rites, accomplish their goals. This causes a destruction of strength in unity and you start leading your life as a lame and helpless being. We should not fall prey to these temptations and try to come out of these wretched conditions. We should always keep in mind that education only can emancipate men and women and lead the righteous, conscientious and noble path of life. Education only can make an educated-noble-righteous man.

Opportunity to Education and Equality :

Education plays a vital role in the protection of individual liberty in a man's life. Those who believe that the power is gained at barrel of the gun would hardly believe the significance of education. Thus, this issue plays an important role in the lives of hitherto neglected and deprived class. This socially and underprivileged class should primarily strive for gaining the higher education. This does not mean that we should neglect the primary and elementary education but unless we gain higher education, large scale opportunities will not open their doors for them. To facilitate the depressed classes and to bring

them in mainstream of society; is in true sense the equality.

Importance of Hostels :

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was not only a voracious reader but also was a great educationist. Knowing the importance of education, he always propagated the importance of education among the untouchables and depressed classes. He always believed that education is a sole way to liberate the socially and economically deprived classes. It is the means of social reformation through which the neglected classes reap the benefits of education. Though, his involvement in socio-political and the public life, he could not devote time in educational field but his ardent urge for education of the socially backward classes can't be questioned.

In 1928, Dr. Ambedkar, founded two hostels for the education of the students. Moreover, in the same year, he also established the 'Depressed Classes Education Society'. He further advised to establish hostels for high school education and arrange for their free meal and accommodation, thus, opening the doors of education for the students.

Keeping in mind the need of education for grabbing opportunities in the



institutes of higher education, he formed 'People's Education Society' in 1946 which further founded 'Siddharth College' in Mumbai on 20th June, 1946. Moreover, Dr. Ambedkar founded 'Milind Mahavidyalaya' at Aurangabad and a college at Mahad in Maharashtra.

Dr. Ambedkar's message to the students :

Dr. Ambedkar, in his many addresses to the students to be dauntless and mentioned that a progress made devoid of self esteem is meaningless. If we want to get success and esteem, we should strive hard to attain it. In our student life, we should always keep aloof from politics until we achieve our desired goal. "Be Enlightened."

In his presidential address, on 11th September, 1938, Dr. Ambedkar remarked, **"If you want success, you must be narrow minded."** A person can't perform effectively many tasks single handedly unless we concentrate on a single goal. To excel in our goal, we need to improve our self confidence. Without industry and hard work, the success is not bound to come at our doorstep. Only attaining the degrees is not the only medium to gain knowledge, it is a medium of knowledge acquired without a true guide and a teacher.

On 11th December, 1955, while addressing to the students at Milind Mahavidyalaya, Dr. Ambedkar appealed students to be dedicated and conscientious. "Every student of this Milind Mahavidyalaya should build his personality on noble path of life."

CONCLUSION:

Dr. Ambedkar always said, "The nation can't make progress unless its depressed and socially neglected people make progress." His vision for the welfare of a nation and the empowerment of its downtrodden classes is still relevant in today's world. Thus, it paved the way for the Ambedkarite social reformation.

"Educate, Unite and Egitate."

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