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Contribution

B. R. Ambedkar is not just a lawyer, social reformer, and father of the Indian Constitution, but also a strong advocate of "education". Brought up in a Dalit household, Ambedkar had suffered discrimination and championed causes of equality and justice. He graduated from Columbia University and London School of Economics. He was appointed the first law minister of India and dedicated himself to the upliftment of marginalized sections of society. As an educationist, Ambedkar believed that education would bring about a revolution in society. Education was never viewed by Ambedkar as merely a vehicle to climb up the ladder of success. Coming from a marginalized community and having experienced discrimination throughout his life, Ambedkar knew the value of education very well. It can serve to break the shackles of subjugation and discrimination.

In other words, education is an indispensable component of a just and equitable society. Ambedkar is well known for his famous slogan, "Educate, Agitate, Organize" which clearly demonstrates that education should be prioritized while seeking to bring about any kind of change. As Ambedkar himself put it, it is the prerequisite of empowerment, especially empowerment of oppressed and discriminated classes of people.

A significant portion of Ambedkar's contribution to Indian education lies in his tireless advocacy for equal access to education for everybody. The principle underlying Ambedkar's approach to education can be summed up in a single idea – everybody, regardless of caste, class, gender or race, should be provided with quality education. To make sure that nobody was deprived of opportunity to get an education due to discriminatory practices, Ambedkar actively fought for eliminating various barriers to education.

Also, he favored measures aimed at increasing the number of educated persons in India, for instance, scholarships, reservations and similar programs intended to facilitate access to education. To materialize his ideas on education, Ambedkar established the People's Education Society in 1945. The main aim of this organization was to disseminate education in underprivileged classes and establish institutions that would afford opportunities to them.

Thanks to the People's Education Society, several prominent institutions, such as Siddharth College and Milind College, appeared on the face of earth. They became an important milestone in providing access to higher education to people who had no chance to get education before.

Another significant aspect of Ambedkar's contribution to education can be found in his activities related to creation of Constitution of India, which he chaired in its formative stage. One should bear in mind the fact that Ambedkar made sure that the Constitution contained articles concerning promotion of equality, social justice and educational interests of weaker sections of Indian population.

Besides being actively engaged in legislative initiatives, Ambedkar set an inspiring example of pursuing higher education. The man obtained several degrees from renowned universities, including Columbia University and London School of Economics. His example inspired numerous individuals in realizing the importance of education as an asset to dignity and self-respect.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Dr. Ambedkar valued development of rational thinking skills, scientific temper and capacity for critical analysis through education. It is evident that education should be used not only for personal benefit but also for the benefit of society as a whole.

All in all, B. R. Ambedkar contributed immensely to Indian education. He helped promote universal access to education in India but his real achievements consist of redefinition of educational goals.

Brief Bio

Muneer Ahmed is a promising professional in the fields of education and mental health, hailing from Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. In 2024, he bagged his Master's degree in Psychology and is currently pursuing another one in Master's in Education (2026) from the University of Kashmir. Besides a Bachelor's of Education and many diplomas in health, computer applications, and environmental studies, Muneer Ahmed gained firsthand knowledge by interning at IMHANS Srinagar as well as participating in survey research and academic counseling. With many national workshops and trainings under his belt, all focused on mental health, social development, and entrepreneurship, Ahmed has been actively engaged as a writer and speaker."