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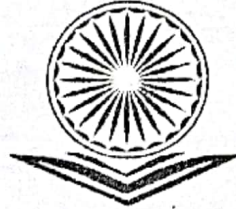
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**CONTENTS OF ENGLISH**

S.No.	Title & Author	Page No.
13	Babasaheb Ambedkar: Pioneer of the Socio-Centered Ideology Dr. Kaushikkumar L. Pandya	61-65
14	Constitutionalism in India Dr. Manish B. Sonawane	66-70
15	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts on Democracy Prof. Varsha Muralidhar Potdar	71-76
16	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Women Empowerment Dr. B. M. Sonawane Dr. Smt. M. F. Patil	77-80
17	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and his Love for Books Rupesh S. Wankhade	81-87
18	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Women Empowerment Dr. Namrata Mishra Tiwari	88-91
19	Dr. Ambedkar's Views on Social Justice Dr. D. R. Khanderao	92-96
20	Impact of Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts on Indian Economy Dr. Purvi H. Parmar	97-101

16. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Women Empowerment

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Abstract

India has had a male dominated culture since pre-independence times. Decisions in the family whether economic, social or any other, were taken by the men in the family. Men did not give women any rights. Even women of that time were made to believe that there is nothing wrong in being dominated by men. But after independence, women in the country were made aware of their rights and duties just like men. Many social reformers made efforts in this regard. Among such social reformers, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's name has to be mentioned first. When Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar became the first law minister of independent India, he made efforts at the government level for women's right to justice and women's empowerment. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's views on women empowerment were not accepted. Even then, most of the landlord's wives, had taken to the streets along with other women against Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The main reason why women in the society do not want equal rights with men is the illiteracy among women and recognition of patriarchal culture. However, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar came to India after studying in an advanced country of the world.

The importance of women's capacity and participation in the economic development of the country was known to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Half of the country's population is women. To make women economically independent, they should have the freedom to make decisions in the family, women should have the freedom to choose any profession, to do business and to have a job. When women become self-sufficient, economically and socially capable, the development process will gain momentum. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar made efforts for this. But initially Dr. Babasaheb's efforts were not successful. Politicians and women activists who decide policy in the country had to pay attention to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's work of women empowerment. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, women have become empowered today and

women have started living independently in the true sense. Women are seen working on the strength of their intelligence in all important places in India. Most of the women are working in the same important positions as the men. Women are working in many fields like education, defence, sports, sociology, politics, medical field, space research, astronomy research, engineers and researchers. As a result, India is moving towards women empowerment.

Keywords :- Empowerment, Development, Economically backward, Hindu code bill,

Objectives of the Research Article

The presented research article has the following objectives.

1. To study Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts on women's empowerment.
2. To study the work done by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar for Women Empowerment.
3. To explain the importance of women empowerment in terms of economic development of the country.
4. To know that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thought were effective in women's empowerment in India.

Data Collection

Secondary data collections has been used for the presented research article. This article has been compiled by compiling information from articles, books and websites published by various scholars regarding Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's women empowerment. The method of economic analysis has been adopted to clarify Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's thought for women empowerment.

Analyses for Article

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was known as an economist, politician, philosopher and social reformer. This recognition was gained by Dr. Babasaheb through his activism. He worked as a social reformer for two decades before independence. Due to caste differences in the society, a great deal of injustice and oppression was taking place on the tribal community. For this, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar inspired the Buddhist movement and through this movement created mass awareness to eradicate the social discrimination against the tribal people. Also, he worked hard for the rights of women and workers. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar entered the famous Columbia University in New York City, USA for higher studies. He received his MA and PhD from this university. After completing his education in the United States, he went to England and obtained his M.Sc. degree from the University of London, as well as his education as a barrister. Dr.

Babasaheb had closely observed gender equality in the United States and England. Being an economist, he had studied the importance of women's participation in the economic development of this country along with that of men. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar firmly believed that, the development process could be accelerated if women were given the opportunity to work alongside men.

After the independence of India, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was given the charge of Law and Justice in the cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Then Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar got an opportunity to take permanent measures for the empowerment of women in all walks of life in India. The patriarchal society in India was so strong that women were deprived of their basic rights and duties. The woman was in a way a slave to the men and the family. But Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted to empower the women of the country. With that in mind, he used his ministerial post to draft the Hindu Code Bill for the empowerment of women and introduced it in the Parliament on 5 February 1951. However, this bill was strongly opposed by many Hindu members. Surprisingly, the wives of wealthy people and landlords in India took to the streets to protest against the bill. Babasaheb started agitating against Ambedkar's decision. Some women of that time felt that 'women empowerment' should not happen. At that time, this was a big contradiction in the country. But Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar knew the importance of women empowerment. Dr. Babasaheb was adamant that in order to bring equality in Indian society, women of all castes and religions must have freedom of thought, freedom of decision, freedom of choice of business, freedom to do business. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar believed that if women became financially capable, it would help reduce the male dominance in the patriarchal culture. However, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was saddened by the growing opposition of the members of Parliament and the women of the country. he then resigned as Union Minister, but Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's efforts to empower women continued. Therefore, in the later period, the governments of the country passed laws in the Parliament of India for the empowerment of women. Today, in the 21st century, women in India are making a name for themselves in the world and in the world by making their mark in various fields. This was only the success of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's efforts for women's empowerment.

Conclusion

1. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was working for the welfare of tribal women in the country since pre-independence through Buddhist movement. he has also worked for the development of women and workers.
2. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had returned to India after studying in reputed universities in USA and England. So he came to know the reality of slavery of women in India.
3. When Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the Union Minister of Law and Justice, he drafted the Hindu Code Bill in the Parliament of India for the empowerment of women of all castes, religions and all walks of life.
4. Considering the opposition of the members of Parliament and women to the Hindu Code Bill prepared for the purpose of women empowerment, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar created widespread awareness in the country.
5. Due to the widespread awareness of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar about women empowerment and the importance of women empowerment, laws have been passed in the Indian Parliament to enable women in stages.

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