
CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS MADE BY DR. B.R AMBEDKAR ON THE DEMOCRACY OF INDIA

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1. **Objective of the paper:** The paper critically discusses the comment made by DR.B.R. Ambedkar on the democracy of India.
2. **Keywords:** caste, paraphernalia democracy, elections, inequality, untouchables.
3. **Comments and analysis:**
 - **Interviewer:** “DR.B.R. Ambedkar, do you think that democracy is going to work?”
 - **DR.B.R Ambedkar:** “no, except in a formal sense if you want.”
 - **Interviewer:** “What do you mean?”
 - **DR.B.R Ambedkar:** “I mean that it is paraphernalia democracy. Continual elections. PM and so on and so on.”

(Explanation: Here Dr B.R Ambedkar says that the type of democracy that India is having will not solve its issues. Democracy of any country cannot be enjoyed in a real sense unless and until the people of that concerned country understand their role and responsibilities. It's also very important to understand the very fact that for the true realization of the democratic nature of the country, the people at the highest and the lowest constitutional post must be educated, and honest enough that the goal of having a democratic country be achieved. The change of government and the change of prime ministers will not help the country until the person acquiring the top post have the urge and the intentions to solve the issues of the common masses.)

- **Interviewer:** “Are elections very important?”
- **DR.B.R. Ambedkar:** “No, elections are important provided they produce really good means.”

(Explanation - Here it means that holding elections will not do good to the nation unless and until the elected representatives have the intentions to solve the issues & problems of the masses. Here it is no brainer that he understood quite long back that almost every possible politician after getting elected, rather than doing something for the common people, only cares about himself. Unless and until there will be political awareness among the voters and until and unless the people vote for the person, not for the party, it's impossible to expect a great change. It's the elected person in the area who will do the work for the betterment of the concerned area. But people do not realise this very concerning thing and they mostly vote for a party not for an individual due to which chances of getting a honest working politician becomes very less.)

- **Interviewer:** “But aren’t they important? because they allow to change the government and it is better to change for good.”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “yes, but who has got an idea, you see, that voting means a change of government? Nobody has. People have no consciousness and our electoral system, you see, is of a sort that never allows a man to choose the candidate. Note for instance: congress went and says vote for bullock. Isn’t it?”

(Explanation – Here he meant that people hardly know about candidates while voting. The major issue is that the people vote for the party not for the person. Change of government won’t help if the elected candidate do not have the intention to do something good for the people of the country. Here Ambedkar ji raised a question on the consciousness of the voters. Reason for raising such question because people hardly vote on the actual issues, and tend to vote on the subjects like religion, cast, which hardly matters to the development of the nation.)

- **Interviewer:** “Yes.”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “But men never care who represented the bullock. Whether the

donkey who represented the bullock or very educated men who represented the bullock.

They simply voted for the bullock.”

(Explanation: Here Dr B.R Ambedkar again emphasised the issue of lack of political awareness among the common masses of the country. It's very important to understand that the problems will not be solved unless and until people vote for the person, not for the party. One thing one must understand that original party symbol of congress was two bullocks carrying a yolk ,but later it changed to hand symbol)

- **Interviewer:** “well that’s common to be a part of the system but what do you mean by the formal sense? In the fundamental sense?”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “Democracy will not work for the simple reason we have got a social structure which is incompatible with the parliamentary democracy.”

(Explanation: Here he meant that the India's social structure will not allow the country to realise the spirit of parliamentary democracy at the highest level. The lack of education among the masses and the lack of rationality, lack of emotional intelligence, lack of intellectual intelligence, among the masses is the biggest concern and is hindering the progress of the country. Due to the absence of these things, politicians are easily spreading false narratives and propaganda just to win the election. It is impossible to brainwash a person if that concerned person does have a certain percentage of rationality, intellectual intelligence and emotional intelligence. It is very important to understand that merely having a degree does not mean that that person will be rational and will have intellectual intelligence and emotional intelligence. There are many people in the country in the present times who have done their graduations from big universities or colleges but they are still believing in certain things which are evilous to society)

- **Interviewer:** “do you mean it is based on inequality?”
- **DR. B.R. Ambedkar:** “yes, it is based on inequality.”

- **Interviewer:** “unless you get rid of the caste system, you can’t fix it.”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “Social structure has to be outed. I’m quite prepared to say it will. It will take some time for the social structure to be outed if you want to do it peacefully. You see, but then somebody must be making the effort to change the social structure.”

(Explanation – Here he meant that the social structure of India which is a bit problematic has to be outed and can be outed but will require a huge amount of time if some good changes are being done in a peaceful manner to solve the problematic things present in the social structure of India. To solve these issues, it is very important to understand that the people at the highest constitutional post must have the intention to solve them. Most politicians use these problems of the social structure to gain political votes. Politicians know that the only way to win an election is by maximum polarization of the people like the Britishers ruled the country by polarising the two communities of the country. It is also to be understood that politicians are the mirror of society. If the people of the society become responsible and have a degree of rationality, it won't be impossible to see a responsible person in a high constitutional post)

- **Interviewer:** “But Prime Minister has made a lot of speeches against the caste system.”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “These endless speeches. You know. you see when Carlyle was presented with the set of volume by speeches. He said, “ oh this endless acts in Christendom” . It is the same sort of . I am sick of speeches . we have to have action.”

(Explanation: He meant that mere speeches won't do good unless and until the person who is giving the speeches believes in what he is saying and does the work in reality. If a person keeps on giving speeches on public health, education, law order, and insurance of the people belonging to the minority community and also the majority community but does not do anything in reality after getting elected in the election then the speeches that that person has delivered in the election rallies are just mere speeches just to make an impression in front of the public)

- **Interviewer:** “ what action do you want.”

- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** some programs you see, some machinery or schemes by which the things will be altered. Some action.

(Explanation – The elected representatives of the people must bring certain schemes to ensure that inequality gets removed from the country. Here inequality does not mean only in the social sense, it also means in the political sense and economic sense. The people at the highest constitutional post must also ensure the unequal treatment gets eradicated and this can only happen from grass-root level like by ensuring that students belonging to different communities seats in the class with each other. The teachers must teach moral studies to ensure that there is a sense of brotherhood between the people belonging to the different communities. Unless and until the feeling of Being from a higher cast or in a lower cast gets eradicated, it's impossible to think of a good social structure. He also said that the feeling of being from a higher cast or lower cast can be eradicated only when true and quality and factual education is being ensured to all the communities of the country. It is by the quality ,factual, true education, the feeling of inequalities among the communities can be eradicated)

- **Interviewer:** “suppose if all this does not work, what alternate do you think?”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “well as an alternative as I think is some kind of communism”.
- **Interviewer:** “why do you think that would work? will it help the country more? Would it raise the standard of living of the people?”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar :** “yes it does.”
- **Interviewer:** “How ?”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “undoubtedly I don't know who really cares for this election business. People want food and want their materialistic needs to be satisfied. In America, yes I agree, you see that democracy works and I don't think there ever would be communism in America. I just came from that country. They had invited me to give me a degree. Each American on so much that there is no need of communism in that country.”

(Explanation – Here he meant that only by communism, the problems of the common masses of this country can be solved but one has to understand that there is a distinct difference between the actual concept of communism and today’s concept of communism. Today’s concept of communism has however become something else. The modern-day concept of communism means is to ensure the absence of capitalism while the original concept of communism was to ensure a classless society where both the industrialist and the labour classes will exist and will be dependent on each other. One class cannot exist without the existence of the other. The actual concept of communism was to ensure that there is no such exploitation of the labour classes by the big industrialist for personal gain but the problem is the modern-day communism concept talks about the absence of capitalism for ensuring zero exploitation of the labour classes which resulted in the unemployment of the labour classes in huge numbers. If the real concept of communism is being realised in a country like India, the people will be benefited from such. The majority of America earns in huge numbers which resulted in the absence of communism in that country. America and its people long back realised what are its prime issues and the majority of the people of that country do have the political awareness among them and for such reason they are giving their votes on such subjects which do play a huge role in the development of the country and this has become a major factor in making America a developed nation rather than a developing nation)

- **Interviewer:** “but this can begin here in India too”.
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “well how can we begin ? They say we have no land, you see, or rainfall is so short, our forests have been denuded, you see what can we do? Unless you tackle these problems nothing can be done.”

(Explanation: *It's very important to understand that from the beginning, issues like unemployment, education, drought, lack of land, inconsistency in the rainfall, deforestation,*

huge population of the country, the food crisis has become a headache and becoming speed breaker in the progress of the country. Unless and until the government takes initiative to solve these issues , nothing can be done)

- **Interviewer:** “do you think they can tackle these?”

- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “I don’t think the present government can tackle these problems.”

(Explanation – He meant here that the then government was failing to address the very issues of the country which was becoming a speed breaker in the progress of the country. Surprisingly all these factors are still present and are playing a huge role in hindering the progress of the country. The union and respective state governments must take an initiative quickly to solve these issues so that India does attain the tag of a developed nation.)

- **Interviewer:** “The communist would wipe out.”

- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “Haa.. yes.”

- **Interviewer:** “Oh the poor people.”

- **DR. B.R. Ambedkar:** “that does not matter to my mind.”

- **Interviewer:** “You mean there are men to think that would be better off.”

- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “Yes we always do that sort of thing, you know?”

- **Interviewer:** “yeah what is this country?”

- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “I mean in war you kill people. Don’t you? You are not sorry because you have killed so many people of the opposition and you find it necessary to do so to safeguard your interest.”

(Explanation: Killing the enemies of the country in the war does not mean that you have done great to the country because in the war our people also dies. It’s the responsibility of the government to ensure that the family of the deceased are in a good state but to be honest the government is failing to do so. The recognition of the soldiers who give their lives for the country is important but the government is failing to do so. To safeguard one of the interests

of the country or maybe the interest of the political party or just to show that the concerned party is a biggest nationalist party, is creating a war situation by their useless dialogues. The government should consider war as the last option to safeguard the interest of the public but many times it has been seen that government for winning a particular election, creates a situation of war and this results in the loss of precious lives of the soldiers.)

- **Interviewer:** “so you mean this caste system is likely to collapse?”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “Collapse..... Collapse. Yes, I think it will soon probably. My people are very impatient. I judged by my own people. you see who is in the lowest rang of the strata. You see. you know. If the foundation of the building begins to collapse, it is first the lowest strata that collapse.”
- **Interviewer:** “Do you think ‘my people’ means the untouchables? (Explanation – unless and until the government ensures the betterment of lower strata or the people who are financially, socially, and politically deprived, nothing good can happen.”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “Yes.”
- **Interviewer:** “Are the communist working among them?”
- **DR. B.R Ambedkar:** “no they are not. My people have faith in me and I haven’t seen anything so far. you see. But they have been asking me. You see. what harm is there in communism? They have been asking and I have to give them the answer someday.”
- **Conclusion and opinion of writer on DR.B.R Ambedkar:** The paper critically explains the emotions, and reasons, behind the statements given by Dr Ambedkar on the democracy of the country. After going through the statements given by him, one cannot disagree with the fact that he was way ahead of his time and was a true intellectual in every possible sense. It will be wrong thing to say that he was just a leader of a minority community, rather one must understand that society cannot evolve in the best possible manner if the society does not ensure the well-being of the people of the lowest strata of the society. His role in

the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India, ensuring the political representation of the woman and also the representation of the woman in every possible field explains that he was a true leader of the country. Although many people hate him just because he implemented the reservation policy but one needs to understand just before making any kind of comment on such sensitive topic, that then, the reservation was the only means to ensure that the people belonging to the lower community get justice. In the present time common people believes that the reservation must be based on economic status but the problem is people do not understand that the reservation has been insured to eradicate social inequalities. Schemes like “**Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY)**, Sukanya Samridhi Yojna (SSY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna (PMJJBY), Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), National Social Assistance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid Day Meal, Mahila Samakhya, Strengthening for providing quality Education in Madrassas (SPQEM), Scheme of Apprenticeship Training, National Scholarships, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (Scheme), Junior Research Fellowships for biomedical sciences, All India Council for Technical Education Scholarships, Department of Science and Technology grants and fellowships, DST's Scholarship Scheme for Women Scientists and Technologists, Biotechnology fellowships for doctoral and postdoctoral studies by DBT, Scholarships /Awards at Undergraduate & Postgraduate level in various science courses at the University of Delhi, Fellowships/Scholarships/Awards by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Sports Authority of India promotional schemes, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - Schemes/Programmes, Scholarship Schemes for ST Students by Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Post-matric Scholarships for SC /ST students, Scholarships for Minority Students” has been implemented for the welfare of the students and people belonging to the all the communities but one thing one must understand these schemes cannot empower the poor people

belonging to the lower communities. Reservation must be ensured to them for their social upbringing. Those who are giving debates that reservation must be based on economic status are failing to understand that economic status may change from time to time. A person may become bankrupt within an year and and also a person may become very rich within a year (for example : decrease in sudden price in market shares or winning a lottery ticket). Due to this reason reservation in the economic basis is not possible still the constitution has granted reservation of 10% to the economically weaker classes. For the upliftment of the socially and backward classes , political representation, representation in education fields, jobs must be ensured to them for their empowerment unless and until the the social inequalities among the people of this country are eradicated. A rich can claim to be poor for the benefit of the schemes given by government but a so-called upper caste will never claim to be lower cast just to enjoy the reservation as it will hurt the ego of so-called upper caste person. Due to this reason the reservation has been implemented on the basis of the cast not on the basis of the economic status. This is the another reason that so called upper cast people always talks about removal of the reservation system but never talks about removal of the cast system from society as because only through the process of the reservation system the lowest strata of the society gets the power and **so-called upper caste** fails to exercise their superior feelings. In the present time also, although the reservation is still existing, still people from the lower caste are being deprived due to the absence of political awareness among them and due to the absence of a political figure like Dr Ambedkar. “Education is the milk of the tigress. Once you have drunk it, you cannot but roar” said Dr . B.R Ambedkar. He believed that the only possible manner by which lower cast can gain respect in society is by ensuring that they are educated enough. A truly educated person will have the voice and the will to fight against injustice and hence unless and until you become educated, you cannot fight. Through true education one can achieve

a sense of rationality, intellectual intelligence and emotional intelligence. Hence this is the only reason why he always emphasised education.