



Dr. Ambedkar's contribution in field of Journalism

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Abstract -

Ambedkar is well known as the greatest leader of modern India. He has contributed greatly to Indian society in various fields from social reforms to contributions in politics to law-making to history, and rational thinking, and he is well known as an economist and his idea behind the establishment of RBI. Very rarely written and spoke about his contribution to the field of journalism at the age of 29 he started his first newspaper Mooknayak. To his last breath, he contributed to this field.

Dr. Ambedkar's Introduction: -

During the freedom struggle stalwart leaders like Mahatma Gandhi launched his first newspaper "Indian Opinion" in South Africa on 4 June 1903. B.N Tilak started his "Keasri" 4 Jan 1881. Kesari, Kaal, Sandesh, and Deshsevak were prominent newspapers at that time. The purpose of journalism was to awaken the masses to join the freedom struggle against the British Raj. So all the important leaders in the freedom struggle wanted need to communicate with the masses hence they launched newspapers and the purpose behind them was to attain freedom. The result of this social liftman of the downtrodden and social reforms was kept on the back burner. Most of the leaders thought that "Once we get political freedom then social change will happen naturally" hence they neglected and stay away from social reforms and those who were social reformers at that time newspapers took a stand against them and ignored their work. That is why Ambedkar said "Social reforms in India



had few friends and many critics" Ambedkar came from the Schedule cast of Maharashtra. He himself was the victim of cast based exploitation and discrimination. Based on his personal experience and situation in society he felt that political freedom is meaningless until social reforms in Indian society. This article attempt to put light on a trained barrister, Philosopher, social crusader, and economist who turns into a journalist, editor, and publisher to awaken the masses to get social freedom against the thousand years of injustice and put an end to it.

Dr. Ambedkar as journalist -

An intellectual beyond measure and a leader of principles, Dr B.R. Ambedkar was against the commercialization of journalism and was disgusted by biased reporting that only peddle pretend fiction.

During the time of freedom struggle, the mainstream newspapers were not given space for social discrimination and social injustice subject. In 1917 "Southborough committee" was appointed to give political rights to various sections of Indian society. Commission called various leaders of the society to put their claims in front of the commission. Ambedkar could not give testimony on behalf of untouchable because he was a professor at Government College. Vitthal Ramji Shinde and Narayanrao Chandvarkar gave the testimony on behalf of the untouchable and they put an unusual condition for voting those who were 4 grade pass an annual income above Rs. 144 could vote. Ambedkar requested the commission to allow him to give testimony and finally, he did but he felt the need to have media for their political rights demands and the everyday pain they face could be expressed by the untouchable himself rather than another person who hasn't faced this circumstances. To awaken and sensitize masses came an idea that he need a medium to communicate that's how the 1st newspaper started by Ambedkar that is Mooknayak (The Hero of the Voiceless) Ambedkar came in close contact with Shahuji Maharaj, the Maharaj of Kolhapur, who helped him launch the paper. Shahuji Maharaj said, "Mr Ambedkar brings out Mooknayak newspaper and consults all backward



communities. I respectfully salute him for this". Hence, on January 31st, 1920, at the age of 29, Ambedkar started Mooknayak at a tiny office in a marginalised area of Mumbai (then Bombay) Mooknayak registration number was B 1430 it was published on every Saturday. On front page right under the paper name the great sant Tukaram maharaja abhang (poem) lines were wrote that is " Kaya karu atta dharuniyaa bhid... Nishank he tond Vajivale navhe jagi koni mukiyancha jaane sarthak laajun navhe hit" In the mooknayak Ambedkar wrote total fourteen article.

Bahishkrut Bharat (India Ostracized) -

On 3 April 1927 Ambedkar started his second newspaper, Bahiskrut Bharat. On the front page of the paper two lions, a chain bind picture was there. Like a Mooknayak here the lines of Sant Dnyaneshwar were written. On the right side of the newspaper title the Registration of the newspaper was written Regd. No. 2250 then the printing press name was mentioned. For Bahishkrut Bharat, He wrote all the reports, editorials, and commentaries without any extra staff. Through his work, he pointed out the insensitivity of so-called upper castes and demanded the opening of public water sources to the Scheduled Castes. Bahiskrut Bharat was a roaring lion that put untouchable issues on the national level like Mahad Sataygrah, Manusmrti Dahan, and the elimination of untouchability. His last editorial titled "Parvati Satyagraha of Pune" was published in the newspaper on 15th November 1929 Ambedkar's journalism was not a trading or business venue so he started for awakening and sensitize the society hence the paper found in financial burden Ambedkar ask the financial support from the public but no one came to help him in one year Bahiskrut Bharat got the loan burden Rs. 500/ so it was difficult for him to bear the loss and run the paper so finally he stopped the publication of Bahiskrut Bharat started writing in Samata but it was not his venture because of same aim and objective of "Samaj, Samata, Sangh he associated with Samata and carried his journalism.

Janata (The People) -

After the close down of Bahiskrut Bharat within the span of a year on 24 November 1930 Ambedkar published the 1st