

Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR'S VISION ON INDUSTRIALIZATION – THE NECESSARY CONDITION FOR THE PROGRESS OF INDIA

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Introduction

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is undisputedly genius and one of the greatest economists of all time. But woefully, his economic thoughts have not been read, followed or disseminated. Today in the era of Privatization, Globalization and Liberalization, it has become more important to understand the economic thoughts of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, particularly on industrialization. He was of the panorama that the State should control all the resources of the nation, such as land, agriculture and industries through constitutional procedures and work towards the overall development of the citizens. He firmly believed that the State can be instrumental in developing the common man's life, if all the resources mentioned above are in its hands. Hence in this paper Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's intellection on industrial development have been reviewed in a systematic manner. The ideas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on industrial development can be explained by observing chances in the fields of present economic scenario through his serious research work.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar – Thoughts on Industrialization

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar strongly advocated industrialization. Quick development of India is unimaginable without boundless industrialization. He thought-about industrialisation and economic growth as the necessary condition for the progress of the country and enfranchisement of the masses. He assumed that industrialization would liberate the oppressed community from the drudgery of redundant methods of production. According to him, democracy meant more devices, more industrialization and higher economic benefits.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar boldly attacked the village system and wanted people to leave villages and settle in cities. He wanted to knock down the social and economic system of the village which is the reason why he gave the call to leave villages and settle in cities, unlike Mahatma Gandhi who gave a slogan of 'Chalo Gaon Ki Aur' (Let us go back to villages). Mahatma Gandhi strongly believed that self-reliant villages formed a sound basis for a just, equitable and non-violent order and believed this could be a guiding principle for all citizens, constructive workers and policy makers in India. He was convinced that "If the villages perish, India will perish too". 'It will be no more India' for him, rebuilding of the nation could be achieved only by reconstructing villages. But Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was against this vision of Mahatma Gandhi. To him, the villages and their low living standards only showed helplessness and a shameful picture of this great nation. Villages were strong protectors of the caste system and social inequalities. Therefore, he wanted to impart education to everyone and promote equality. Further he strongly advocated skill development and technical knowledge to the deprived people and migrant to cities where industrialization is taken place.

Industrialization – Agriculture

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar strongly believes that Industrialization of India is the soundest remedy for the agricultural problems of India. One classic solution advocated by him to release the pressure on land was the industrialization. He was the first economist to identify the problem of disguised unemployment (Generally we will see this in Agriculture) in India and advised for rapid industrialization for shifting disguised unemployed labour from the agriculture to manufacturing sector. Hence Surplus labour from the agricultural sector could be absorbed in the manufacturing sector. This would solve unemployment problem to a great extent, would also have positive effects on poverty reduction and reduction in inequality through sharing in growth.

Nationalization of Industries

In his Article "States and Minorities", Dr. B. R. Ambedkar demanded that the key industries should be owned and run by the State. Similarly the basic industries should be owned and run by the State or corporations set up by the state. He was of the opinion that private industries were a reason for the unequal distribution of wealth. If the major industries are given to private organizations, then there would be absolute exploitation of wealth and labour. Nationalization

of industries would give security to the workers and help in equal distribution of wealth. He also advocated Nationalization of insurance, which would give greater security to the people.

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Industrialization – worker class

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Dr. B. R. Ambedkar felt that the worker class should also work with dignity and enjoy certain facilities that would keep them healthy and productive. It was also that majority of the worker's class in the factories were from the depressed classes. Hence, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar pushed forward several schemes to benefit the worker's class in the manufacturing. Reduction in Factory Working Hours (8 hours duty): Today the working hours in India per day is about 8 hours. The Right to strike ought to be given the workers. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar enacted and brought Employees State Insurance (ESI) for the benefit of workers. ESI helps the workers with medical care, medical leave, physically disabled during working injuries as compensation Insurance for providing various facilities etc.,

He was instrumental in bringing the establishment of National employment exchanges.

He framed many laws for Women Labours in India:

- a. Mines Maternity Benefit Act,
- b. Women Labour welfare fund,
- c. Women and Child, Labour Protection Act.

Conclusion

The most significant book among his economic writings is 'States and Minorities'. This book stands as one of his masterpieces, wherein he advocates Nationalization of all the major industries. It is high time we started understanding Dr. Ambedkar's social, economic and political thoughts and let everyone know how they are beneficial for the overall development of people and nation as a whole. The duty of the state is to distribute the resources equally among all and see that no injustice is done to them. So he strongly believes that Industrialization is the best solution for casteism, poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, inequalities and such problem which India is facing. If India wishes to become a super power and a strong economy, it must step towards industrialization and urbanization.

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