



Contribution of Untouchables and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to India's Independence

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Abstract

Aim: All of us celebrate Independence Day as a national festival because our country became free from British rule on 15 August 1947. Since then, we have been listening that many people contributed to making our country independent, and many people sacrificed their lives for our motherland, but only a few people are getting credit for it. We have never heard of the contribution of untouchables to independence yet now. When we attend the program of Independence Day at any institution like college, degree college, any government sector or private sector, we listen there only some particular persons, who belong to the upper caste, but no one speaks a single word in reverence of untouchables. We feel at that time, untouchability and discrimination had still not been removed from the minds of human beings.

Methodology and Approach: The study is based on the books of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and other Schedule Caste writers' books. Descriptive and analytical approaches have been used here.

Outcome: A man wants to show himself as religious, mindful, dutiful, and full of humanity, but he cannot refrain from the discrimination of untouchability and cruelty.

Conclusion and Suggestion: Nowadays a person studies only for his competition, not for his knowledge, therefore he cannot measure the quality of scholars and uses discrimination and cruelty in his behavior.

Keywords: British, Independent, Sacrificed, Untouchability, Discrimination, Human beings

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When we read the history of India, that there are no words have been written in reverence of schedule caste, the heroes of the untouchables have been kept hidden from history so that the untouchables may not come to know about their ancestors who were very powerful, brave, and energetic. In the freedom struggle of 1857, in this revolution, the contribution, not only untouchables men but untouchables women also, who were Jhalkara Bai, Uda Bai Mahaviro Devi, Laajo Sahaja Ranveero and others paid a great contribution, and they also sacrificed their lives for their motherland, but we have been taught only the scarification of Mangal Pandey in the revolution of 1857.

Uda Ji Naik, who belongs to the untouchables, and her name always comes first among the immortal martyrs because she revolted against the British when the British were full of power and all Indians were controlled by the British Government. She braved so much that she announced against the British that one who would bring a head of the British would be rewarded with five hundred rupees. (When Uda Bai had killed dozens of British soldiers sitting on a Peepal tree, she was called the Black Cat by the British writers) (Singh, Swatantra Sangram Mai Achhut Jaation Ka Yogdan pp31).

Banke Chammr took an active part in the freedom struggle of 1857, he was sentenced to death. How great a revolutionary he was, can be measured by the reward that the British had announced a reward of 50000 on Banke Chamar. Many revolutionary brave warriors who were born into untouchable families like Upaiya Chammar, Chetram Raidas, Shaheed Banke Chammar, Dalpati Chammar and fought bravely against the British.

Satnaam Singh wrote in his book 'Swatantra Sangram me Achyut Jatiyon ka Yogdan; before the revolution of 1857, the untouchables had started a revolution against the British, because they wanted freedom for their motherland. The British were getting frightened by the revolutionary activities of the untouchables; therefore, the British people established an act for the untouchables The Criminal Act in 1793. 217 castes were kept under the act who belonged to the untouchables class, and especially among them were Chamar, Pasi, and Kori. Most of them had to go to the police station for giving attendance every day. Due to Criminal Act, the untouchables got upset and separated from one another. They were forced to leave their houses, and even today they roam from place to place and are seen as a wanderer. In parallel, why this did not happen in other categories as it happened with the untouchables? (Singh pp.12,13)

The British guessed the power of these untouchables at the same time when the battle of Koregaon was fought between the British East India Company

and the Peshwa at Koregaon at the Baima River on January 1, 1818. Peshwa Baji Rao II had a strong force of 28000 soldiers while the British East India Company had around 800 soldiers, five hundred soldiers of them belonged to Maher's caste and were considered untouchables. Maher's soldiers successfully defeated the soldiers of Peshwa and this victory attained a legendary status of the untouchables, the people of scheduled caste saw this battle as a victory of untouchables over the oppression of the people of higher caste.

The freedom struggle and the chori chora incident also have great importance. Ganpati Chamar was the main hero of this massacre, which happened at Gorakhpur in February 1922. Gupteshwar Singh was a police officer at the police station in Gorakhpur, and he was a bastard of the British, he not only abused an innocent person but also beat him badly. Whose name was Bhagbaan Das, and who belonged to the schedule caste? Due to this incident, the people of untouchables became very aggressive and immediately they gathered a huge assembly of depressed classes, which was headed by Ramapati Chamar. When the crowd of about 500 untouchables reached the police station, the policemen started firing at them; on this, Ramapati said 'Burn alive these criminals; who shoot at the unarmed poor. In these cases, the British sentenced 172 untouchables to death.

It is fact, that no fight can be won without wisdom, Babasaheb neither used any weapons nor sat on hunger or fasted unto death to fight the British, but used his brain only. He fought against the British through the help of his writing, speech, and letters. Babasaheb exposed the reality of the British not only in India and England but abroad also.

Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's glimpse of patriotism is visible everywhere, whether it is his research work or institute and others. The name of his newspaper was Bahishkrit Bharat and he founded the Printing Press named Bharat Bhushan Printing Press. Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar exposed the black secret of the British in his dissertation of M. A. 'Administration and Finance of

East India Company was secured from the Columbia University that the strict rules of the British had been applied so that they could accumulate more benefit from the Indian farmers and the lower persons.

The East India Company had started levying various types of taxes on the weak destitute people and farmers of India, due to which the condition of India was getting worse. Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar defied the strict rules of the British by writing his dissertation, he explained the rule of the Zemindary Settlement of Cornwallis which were not in favor of poor farmers of India. The East India Company had applied many taxes upon the Indians like the salt tax, land tax, the wheel tax, and many others.

According to Professor Adams (The finances of the country are to be judged from the viewpoint of developmental expenditure: and among the developmental expenditure of a country the public works take a prominent position) (Ambedkar pp.25). Babasaheb wanted to tell through his writings not only to his Indians but to the people of the whole world how the British people collected money in India and sent that money to their country while that money should be invested in our country for development like the facility of water, canals, roads and bridges and many others.

Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar did his Ph.D. from Columbia University on the topic 'The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India' in this thesis he boldly exposed the British Bureaucracy with scientific facts and condemned the imperialist intentions. (Nath) We can say that Babasaheb attacked the brain of the British with his writing and the British were getting scared and frightened by the work of Babasaheb. Almost work of Babasaheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar reveals the black mystery of the British and how they used the conspiracy against the Indians when he went to London to attend the Round Table to have his views forcibly against the British. 'I am not going to say anything as regards the capacity of

Indian Civil Service, because I think that it is generally admitted that it is a 'capable Civil Service' (Ambedkar, Dr Ambedkar at the Round Table Conference)

It is a very regretful thing for our nation, when some educated talk on some matter, but they cannot escape from the disease of religion and caste. In the people of India, when he writes or speaks something, he does not do anything fairly because he first keeps remaining the seeds of casteism and religion in their minds before doing anything. When we read the books of some Indian authors, it smells of discrimination, inhumanity, casteism, and religion. Here, a person is recognized by only his cast not his quality, the same condition of Babasaheb was, he is known as a very prominent scholar not only in India but abroad also. He developed the skill in all realms, still, some Indians are measured by his caste, and speak about him – Daliton ka Masiha. The same situation for untouchables before the independence was, they were not allowed for reading and writing, so they could not come into the legendary history of India. As for as we think, no one could be as brave, and fearless a hero as Udham Singh in the world, and no one can do as Udham Singh has done for our India, still, he was not taught in the Indian History, due to racism and religion.

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