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April - 2023

**Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Relevance to Inclusive  
Development in Contemporary India**



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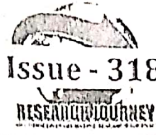
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Issue - 318 (A) : Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Relevance to Inclusive Development in Contemporary India  
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*- Chief & Executive Editor*





## Dr. Ambedkar and Upliftment of Women

Dr. S.M. Nandagawali

Associate Professor & HOD English

Dr.L.D. Balkhande College of Arts and Commerce

Pauni, Dist Bhandara

### Abstract:

*The role played by Dr. Ambedkar in securing the basic rights for the women in general in 20th Century is vital. As a great Feminist Dr. Ambedkar is a powerful source of inspiration for formation of feminist political agenda. He is the powerful source of inspiration for feminist movement. Therefore in 'Annihilation of Caste' he has suggested that 'make every man and woman free from the thralldom of the shastras, In the movements started by Dr. Ambedkar from 1920 women actively participated and acquired confidence to give voice to their feelings. Dr. Ambedkar addressed women to change life style by wearing saree, not to eat meat of dead animals. The reforms suggested by Dr. Ambedkar in the form of "Hindu Code Bill" are accepted by a large, marriage, divorce succession were the subjects which would restore the dignity to women were codified in Hindu Code Bill. Hindu Succession Act 1956, Hindu Marriage Act 1955 and Hindu Women's Right to property 1957 are the principal codifications covered by him.*

**Key words:** Manusmriti, Shudras, Mooknayak, Chaturvarna, Hindu Code Bill

### Introduction:

Dr. Ambedkar was the pioneer of gender equality question in India. If women are not empowered equally democratization process remains meaningless, 'Half the sky is women'. If equality denied to women the process of democratization of society becomes infructuous. The UNO also declared the year 1975 as the year of women. Today the world body has started to implement the concept of empowerment of women. Gender equality has its roots in cultural psychology of Indian mind. Women empowerment means not just making the women more mobile, more educated, secured or protected but they should be given equal rights to property. They must be given scope and circumstantial support so that they feel self-sufficient, independent and chiseller of own fate.

A Hindu writer accused Buddha, for throwing women into the background, in an article published in the Eve's Weekly on 21 January 1950. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar who was the then Minister of Law in Nehru cabinet published an article in May, June 1952 about the position of women, stating that it was Manu and not Buddha who was responsible for the fall of Hindu women. The article by Babasaheb was published in 'Maha Bodhi' Journal. The place and position of women was never equal with that of men. She was treated like animals in Shastras. Mr. Tulsi Das in Ramayana wrote "Dhol, ganwar, shudra, pashu, nari, ye sab tadan ke adlikar". Draupadi in Mahabharata was also put on stake in gambling. In Manusmriti she was put at the lowest bottom of humanity. Dr. Ambedkar was of the firm opinion that until Manusmriti is blown off nothing going to happen, until they are free from superstitions nothing going to happen. It is also mentioned in the Hindu shastras that woman when child she is slave of father, in her youth slave of her husband and in old age of her son. Manu even says that male should not sit lonely with his own sister, daughter and even mother, in her own house she must not behave independently. A girl, as a young woman even as an aged own. The deep seated caste based hatred is responsible