

SUMMARY OF THE MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT

ON

**“DR. AMBEDKAR’S SOCIO, ECONOMIC & POLITICAL
ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION AS A MEMBER IN THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF VICEROY IN BRITISH
INDIA: A CRITICAL STUDY”**

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By

Sanjay Narayanrao Kaninde

Asst. Professor, Political Science,
Vasantrao Naik Govt. Inst. of Art’s and Social Science,
Savindhan Chowk, Nagpur

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in the making of modern India is invaluable. He is well known as a great Economist, social reformer, statesman, religious critic and constitutional maker. He has strong perception in social, political, economic and religious fields. Enormous study has been done and is presently under process on the greatest personality, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Various philosophers, researchers and students have thrown light on different aspects of his works. There are many writers and thinkers who have written his biography. Though, the various scholars have done research work on Dr. Ambedkar, but that much remains incomplete. This research is also a part of that research.

Dr. Ambedkar's emergence of political leader :-

He had entered in Public life and started his mission in 1919. On January 27, 1919 he gave evidence before the South. Brough Committee, which was set up to scrutinize the issues of franchise, where he pleaded not only for unconditional rights to vote for all but also a separate electorate for the depressed classes. After that he became the member of Bombay legislative Assembly. He successfully led various social and political movements.

He visualised the problems of depressed classes from the political point of view since the very beginning. He said very categorically that the

problem of depressed classes was a fundamentally political problem and must be treated as such. It is his distinctive and unique approach which led him to think that, the problem of the depressed classes will never be solved unless they get power in their own hands.

For his incredible and mammoth social and political work, he was appointed a member in the Viceroy's Executive Council (the then cabinet) in 1942. In this capacity as member (Minister) he worked for the period of three years, nine months and eleven days.

Formulation of Research problem :

The work done by Dr. Ambedkar as a member in the Viceroy's executive council is considerable. The sections of Indian Society are not aware about his stupendous contribution, specially in his capacity as a labour member in the Executive Council of Viceroy. Through this research, effort has been made to bring out into limelight the dynamic and constructive role played and contribution made by Dr. Ambedkar.

Significance of Research :

In the capacity of a member in the Viceroy's Executive Council, Dr. Ambedkar played very significant and dynamic role to emancipate the vulnerable section of society. He was incharge of labour Portfolio, including, P.W.D., Power, Coal, Irrigation etc. He introduced and got passed various bills for the welfare of masses in general and workers in particular. He used his talent in planning and shaping multipurpose major projects, such as Damodar valley project, Mahanadi River project/Hirakund Project, some project, Orissa's river project etc., in the favour of Indian masses.

Objectives of the study :-

- 1) To know and understand the importance of Dr. Ambedkar's Role & Contribution as a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council during British India.
- 2) To study various policies and laws introduced by Dr. Ambedkar in his capacity as a member in the Executive Council of Viceroy.
- 3) To understand, analyse and evaluate the various projects, planning schemes undertaken by him for the welfare of the people as a member in the Executive Council.
- 4) To prepare a systematic documentation of legislative and Executive Role performed by him during his tenure as a member of Executive Council of Viceroy.
- 5) To study his active role in monitoring, controlling and guiding the various departments allotted to him.
- 6) To study his role as a legislator in Central legislature.
- 7) To study, understand, analyse and asses the overall role played by him in his capacity as a Executive Member, as well as in Central legislature.
- 8) To study the work done by Dr. Ambedkar for labour classes in particular and general masses in general.

Hypotheses

- 1) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played a very dynamic, constructive and creative and powerful role in the Executive Council of Viceroy.
- 2) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar played a revolutionary role for the amelioration and the welfare of backward classes in general and scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, women in particular, as a member of Viceroy's executive council.
- 3) To study projects, schemes, programs and plans introduced by Dr. Ambedkar as a member of Viceroy's Executive Council to strengthen the economic and industrial development of India.
- 4) As a member of Executive Council Dr. Ambedkar introduced revolutionary bills for the welfare of labour classes in India.

Research Methodology

The nature of this research work is predominately historical, analytical and descriptive, therefore the data have been collected from the library sources. These library sources consist of Gokhale Political & Economical Institute, Pune, Library of Central Legislature, New Delhi, Library of Dr. Ambedkar study centre, R.T.M. Nagpur University, Nagpur, etc.

The private libraries managed by voluntary institutions were visited and the relevant information have been explored. The volumes brought out by the Government of Maharashtra under the title of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar writing and Speeches and the magazine of the Government of India called 'Indian Information', Volumes of Central legislative Assembly debates have been examined thoroughly. In addition to this a bonafide research work carried out by the scholars have been taken into consideration.

The Reports prepared by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar himself from time to time and submitted to various commissions and committees have been also taken into consideration to carry out genuine research work. His personal correspondence with the British Government, national leaders, social workers and Social reformers have also been taken into consideration as a secondary source.

CHAPTER TWO

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF VICEROY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

This chapter is devoted to the study of historical development of Viceroy's Executive Council. The Acts from 1773 to 1935 made by British Government in India have been briefly explained. The Executive Council was first created by regulating Act of 1773 and developed by various Acts until 1853.

The Acts of 1858 established absolute supremacy of the parliament over the government of India by putting an end to the East India Company and the Court of Directors. The secretary of state in his council was made responsible on behalf of British King to oversee the force of British administration in India.

The various Act's such as Acts of 1909, 1919 and 1935 created by British Government are major steps towards the developments of the Executive Council.

All these Act's mentioned above, changed the structure and functions of Executive Council of Viceroy in British India from time to time. This has been briefly described.

CHAPTER THREE

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION OF DR. AMBEDKAR AS A COUNCILLOR OF VICEROY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

When Dr. Ambedkar was a councillor of executive council, he was asked to look after the portfolio of Labour, Irrigation, Coal, Water Supply, P.W.D etc. In his capacity as a minister of various portfolios, he introduced and amended various Bills.

Some of the important Bills he got passed through legislature were, Mines Maternity Benefit Bill, the War Injuries Compensation Bill, the Indian Trade Union (Amendment Bill), the Coal Mine Safety (Amendment) Bill, the factories Amendment Bill, the workmens compensation bill, Mica Mines labour welfare Fund Bill and many more benefited to labour classes of India and women's worker in coal mines.

The progressive labour policies adopted in free India owe much to the measures introduced by Dr. Ambedkar in the forties. He placed great emphasis on technical training and upgradation of skills for industrial growth.

The Labour in India has been largely exploited. The efforts of Dr. Ambedkar were directed towards bringing the workers under the protective umbrella of social security.

Dr. Ambedkar as a labour minister when found time to inspect and observed the conditions in the coalfields, went 400 feet underground to see the operation in the coal and mica mines. This concern for the working classes, particularly in the coal mines manifested itself in the coal mine labour welfare.

He also contributed for the multipurpose plans for the development of Damodar Valley Project, Orissa River Project, Hirakund / Mahanadi Project, Sone Project, etc.

In this chapter some of the above said important Bills have been critically studied.

CHAPTER FOUR

DR. AMBEDKAR'S ROLE CONTRIBUTION AS A LABOUR MEMBER IN CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

In the legislative Assembly Dr. Ambedkar a Labour Member, influentially answered many questions asked by the honourable member of Central Legislature. As a Minister he used to give his ideas, thoughts and solutions to many issues and problems.

The close studied such discussions and question-answer sessions, beings to notice that Dr. Ambedkar has vast knowledge of every aspect and was very well aware of the problems in his departments. He always came in the House with preparation of the subject.

Here, in this chapter main focus is on some of questions which were asked by the members of Central Legislative Assembly to Dr. Ambedkar. The answers given by Dr. Ambedkar are very informative, thoughtful and important in present world scenario too, is the focus of study in this chapter.

CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF DR. AMBEDKAR AS MEMBER IN VICEROY'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dr. Ambedkar never forgot that his ultimate aim was to uplift his people. In order to fulfil this purpose he struggled hard throughout his life. When he was a member of executive council, he submitted a memorandum to his excellency the Govenmor General (Viceroy) of India. This memorandum sets out the grievances of the scheduled castes and suggests the measures that are necessary for redressing them. He demanded vice versally adequate representation in Central Legislature, Executive and Administration respectively. He also wanted to increase the numbers of scheduled caste members in Viceroy's Executive Council. At that time Dr. Ambedkar was the only member of scheduled caste community included in the Executive Council of Viceroy's.

He also contributed to granting scholarships to scheduled caste students for their higher studies, his constant efforts for the welfare of depressed classes people resulted in granting them reservation in various fields, is the credit of Dr. Ambedkar.

In the federal services examination he suggested reduction in fees, relaxation in age limits for the scheduled Caste students.

This chapter is composed keeping in mind all the above aspects and issues.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSION & FINDINGS

Dr. Ambedkar introduced number of Bills for the welfare of labour classes in British India. He made the plan of various schemes & projects, such as Damodhar Vally Project, Mahanadi/Hirakhund Project, Orissa's River Project, Sone Project etc. His efforts for granting reservation, scholarship for higher studies, special privilege to the students, to backward classes, women is a unique one.

In a nut shell, Dr. Ambedkar in his capacity as a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council played a very dynamic and meaningful role and gave fundamental contribution for emulation of depressed, suppressed and upressed classes in India.

In this concluding chapter the overall role and contribution of Dr. Ambedkar is briefly evaluated.