

EDUCATION AS A CATALYST OF SOCIAL CHANGE

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Introduction

Education is the primary vehicle for human, economic and social development, profiting both the individual and society, is power and also a key to the welfare of the people. Dr. Ambedkar was very much aware about the importance of education in one's life. His life and his struggle for education in the early school life and also at higher level including research itself is a living illustration of how education shapes a person and the destiny of people. He was convinced that both primary as well as higher education are important for the people in general and depressed classes in particular. He stated in the Bombay Legislative Council: "We may forego year's material benefits of civilization, but we cannot forego our right and opportunity to reap the benefits of the highest education to the fullest extent" (Verma & A Sohrot, 40).

He appealed to the government to provide more fund to develop primary education for all sections of people. In the legislative council debates in the Bombay Assembly during 1927, Dr. Ambedkar made a

historic appeal to create the education sector. He was the first economist in the country to calculate the cost and benefits of education. He had provided empirical example to illustrate the investment made on education which is much more beneficial than pay back reclamation. Ambedkar said, "I find that increase in the number of the people is certainly not commensurate with the increase of expenditure on Education. I plead that we should at least spend on education the same amount that we take from the people in the form of exclusive revenue'.

Since change is a concept linked with society therefore social change is held to occur only when social structure- patterns of social relations, established social norms and social rules changes. (Roger cotterrel, P. 47) Technology, demography and ideology; change in political life and economic policy (such as globalization), bring revolutionary changes in the society.

Cultural factors such as basic orientation in religion, morality and social outlook influence the direction and extent of social change . (Bhat,, 19).

Technological developments has profusely influenced social change by introducing new methods of production by employing labour saving devices, by swift transportation and communication system, and by new reproductive methods. (Kuppuswamy, 83-88) Electronic media, electronic devices, television, communication means and devices automobile and constriction technologies also bring the change in social life of each and every person.

With changes in human practice of reproductive function and advancement in medical science, there occur changes in population, family size, standard of living and intensity of intra familiar relations. (Bhat, Law p. 17) Change, thus, leads to more and more education and education brings change.

It hardly needs stressing that education is a catalyst to bring the social changes in the society. Development of any society is dependent on the educational status of that society. Education is an agent or