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**PUNYASHLOK AHILYADEVI HOLKAR
SOLAPUR UNIVERSITY, SOLAPUR**

School of Social Sciences

&

Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Chair

Under

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**MULTIDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
On**

**“The Mind That Moved Millions:
Unfolding The Global Relevance
of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar”**

- Editor in Chief -

Prof. Gautam Kamble

- Editor -

Dr. Prabhakar Kolekar



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Global Features of Ambedkarite Thought

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Abstract

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's intellectual legacy though rooted in the Indian socio political context has gained global relevance in recent decades. his emphasis on social justice, equality, constitutionalism and education as tools of liberation has found resonance in global discourses on human rights, anti-discrimination laws and marginalized identity movements. Ambedkarite thought has influenced academic research, diaspora activism and policy initiatives across nations. this paper explores the global dimensions of Ambedkar's philosophy its comparative relevance to international social justice movements, its impact on constitutional democracies and its adoption in anti-caste advocacy and academic discourse worldwide by analyzing Ambedkar's contributions through a global lens, the paper highlights how his vision transcends national boundaries and offers a universal framework for equity and dignity.

Keywords: Ambedkarite Thought, Social Justice, Global Human Rights, Anti-Caste Movements, Constitutionalism, Democracy, Dalit Rights and Education, Ambedkarite Buddhism, Global Policy, Comparative Politics, Inclusion, Diaspora Activism.

Introduction

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar an eminent Indian jurist, social reformer, economist and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, developed a body of thought that continues to influence contemporary discourses on social justice, democracy and human rights while his work emerged from the specific socio-political context of caste discrimination in India, the philosophical and ethical dimensions of his thought carry profound global relevance. Ambedkar's unwavering commitment to liberty, equality and fraternity values deeply rooted in both enlightenment ideals and Buddhist philosophy form the bedrock of what is now referred to as Ambedkar the global features of Ambedkarite thought by examining its philosophical foundations, socio-political critiques and pedagogical dimensions in the context of International movements for justice. Through comparisons with global anti-racist struggles, democratic developments, and educational theories, the study positions Ambedkar not just as an Indian reformer but as a global thinker whose legacy offers a transformative vision for oppressed communities worldwide.

Comparative Analysis of Ambedkarite Thought & Global Social Justice Movements

1. Shared Vision of Equality & Dignity

Ambedkar's core ideals like liberty, equality, fraternity and justice, parallel values seen in global movements like the Civil Rights Movement in the USA, anti-apartheid struggles in South Africa, and Dalit - Bahujan movements across South Asia. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela similarly emphasized dignity, non-violence and systemic change, resonating with Ambedkar's vision.

2. Structural Critique of Oppression

Just as Ambedkar exposed the systemic nature of caste based discrimination, global movements addressed racial, colonial, and class based oppressions. Ambedkar's thought critiques Brahmanical patriarchy much like feminist and anti racist theorists critique white supremacy and patriarchy.

3. Emphasis on Legal and Constitutional Reform

Ambedkar believed in using the constitutional framework to safeguard the rights of the marginalized. this is similar to strategies in the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, where legal reforms like the Civil Rights Act were pursued to achieve equality.

4. Intersection of Identity and Class

Ambedkarite thought acknowledges that caste and class are intertwined aligning with global intersectional approaches (e.g. Black feminism, Latin American decolonial thought) that recognize overlapping forms of oppression (race, gender, class).

5. Role of Education and Consciousness

Ambedkar saw education as the key to liberation, a view echoed in Paulo Freire's pedagogy of the oppressed and Black empowerment movements emphasizing political literacy.

6. Religion and Moral Justice

Ambedkar's embrace of Navayana Buddhism as a moral alternative to caste-Hinduism reflects a global trend of using spiritual frameworks for justice, such as Liberation Theology in Latin America.

Constitutionalism and Democracy - A global blueprint in Ambedkarite thought

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar viewed constitutionalism not merely as a legal framework but as a transformative instrument to achieve social justice, equality and dignity for all. His belief in democracy was deeply rooted in moral society building rather than just electoral governance. This perspective makes his thought globally relevant in the quest for inclusive, rights based democracies.

1. Constitutional Morality

Ambedkar emphasized constitutional morality respect for democratic values beyond written laws. This aligns with global democratic traditions that uphold rule of law, civil liberties and human rights, as seen in the U.S, European, and South African constitutions.

2. Social Foundation of Democracy

For Ambedkar democracy must begin at the social level without equality and fraternity, political democracy is hollow. This aligns with global movements that seek participatory democracy, community rights and equity driven governance.

3. Rights of the Marginalized

Ambedkar's constitutional vision guaranteed affirmative action (reservations), freedom of religion and protection from discrimination. These principles echo global frameworks like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and South Africa's post-apartheid constitution.

4. Institutions with Accountability

He advocated for strong accountable institutions an independent judiciary, free press and checks and balances which are foundational to all liberal democracies.

5. Global Inspiration

Ambedkar's approach inspired global marginalized communities, including Dalit diaspora activism and movements in countries like Nepal, where the democratic constitution making process drew from his vision.

Education as Liberation - The Translational Vision of B R Ambedkar

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar saw education not merely as academic achievement but as a tool of social empowerment, liberation and transformation. His emphasis on education as a right and necessity for the oppressed places his thought in alignment with global liberation ideologies.

1. Education as a Tool of Social Justice

Ambedkar believed that ignorance breeds slavery and only through education can oppressed communities awaken their rights and challenge unjust systems. His own life from a marginalized background to a globally educated intellectual demonstrates this philosophy in practice.

2. Comparative Global Vision

Ambedkar's vision aligns with Paulo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" where education is not neutral but a form of resistance. Similarly movements like the African and American freedom struggle emphasized literacy and political consciousness as tools of empowerment.

3. Educational Access as a Right

Ambedkar fought for universal, state supported and inclusive education, particularly for Dalits and women. This anticipates global frameworks like the Right to Education, UNESCO's Education for All and Sustainable Development Goal 4 (inclusive and equitable quality education).

4. Education for Human Dignity

He advocated that education should not only develop skills but also awaken self-respect, critical thinking and moral courage a holistic model that resonates globally in rights based and decolonial education movements.

5. Translation into Institutional Action

As a policy maker, Ambedkar institutionalized his vision by advocating for educational scholarships, hostels for Dalit students and reservation in education, showing how pedagogy can be translated into policy-driven social reform.

Ambedkarite Buddhism and Its Global Reception

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's adoption and reinterpretation of Buddhism in 1956 was not merely a religious conversion. It was a radical act of social, cultural and psychological liberation from caste based oppression. Ambedkarite Buddhism emerged as a new path for dignity, equality and human rights, gaining recognition both in India and globally.

1. Navayana A New Interpretation of Buddhism

Ambedkar developed Navayana (the "New Vehicle"), a reinterpretation of Buddhism focused on social equality, rationality and activism. Unlike traditional Buddhist schools, Navayana rejects rituals, metaphysical beliefs and rebirth, emphasizing morality and social justice as its core.

2. Buddhism as Protest against Oppression

Ambedkar used Buddhism as a nonviolent resistance against the caste system. His mass conversion with millions of Dalits represented spiritual revolt and socio-political assertion a model later studied in global decolonial and liberation theology frameworks.

3. Global Recognition and Comparative Influence

Scholars worldwide view Ambedkarite Buddhism as a modern ethical movement.

- In countries like Japan, Sri Lanka, and the U.S., academics and activists engage with his ideas to understand Buddhism's role in social justice.
- The Dalit Buddhist diaspora has taken the Ambedkarite message to the global stage, participating in human rights discourses.

4. Humanism and Universal Values

Ambedkar's Buddhism promotes human dignity, compassion and fraternity, aligning with global humanist and secular ethics. This has created dialogues between Ambedkarite Buddhists and global peace movements, particularly in interfaith and anti-discrimination forums.

5. Continuing Global Impact

Ambedkarite Buddhism has inspired - Annual global Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations, Academic programs in universities abroad and Cross-cultural Buddhist dialogues on race, caste, and identity.

Ambedkarite Thought in Global Academia and Policy

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's intellectual legacy has moved beyond Indian borders to become a subject of global academic inquiry and a framework influencing social justice policies worldwide. His ideas on caste, rights, democracy and equality are increasingly recognized as vital to understanding global structures of inequality and resistance.

1. Rising Academic Recognition

- Global universities such as Columbia University (his alma mater), Harvard, SOAS London, and others have included Ambedkarite thought in curricula, particularly in departments of sociology, political science, law, human rights and South Asian studies.
- Ambedkar's writings are now studied in comparative frameworks alongside thinkers like Karl Marx, John Rawls, Frantz Fanon and Paulo Freire, especially in contexts of marginality and structural oppression.

2. Caste as a Global Analytical Category

- Ambedkar's analysis of caste as a graded inequality is used in diaspora studies and by anti-racism scholars globally to examine systems of exclusion. Institutions such as Harvard and California State University have initiated anti-caste discrimination policies, directly referencing Ambedkar's thought.

3. Influence on Global Human Rights Discourse

- Ambedkar's work on constitutionalism, civil rights and legal protections for minorities is cited in international law and UN discussions on social justice.
- NGOs and civil society organizations use Ambedkarite principles in policy advocacy, especially around education, representation, and non-discrimination.

4. Policy Engagement and Dalit Rights Abroad

- Dalit diaspora communities in the US, UK, Canada and elsewhere have invoked Ambedkar's legacy to push for caste protections in workplaces and education.
- Policy think tanks and advocacy groups have recognized Ambedkar's framework as applicable beyond India, especially in intersectional anti-discrimination laws.

5. Research and Conferences

- International conferences and seminars on Ambedkar's philosophy are regularly organized.
- His works are increasingly translated into global languages, aiding research and cross-cultural dialogue.

Conclusion

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's thought rooted in the Indian struggle against caste-based discrimination and inequality, has transcended national boundaries to offer a powerful framework for global justice. His vision of social democracy, constitutional morality, education as liberation and equality for the most oppressed resonates strongly with contemporary movements across the world that seek to dismantle structural injustice.

Today Ambedkarite thought influences not only Indian social and political discourse but also shapes global academic research, diaspora activism, policy reforms, and international human rights conversations. His critique of social hierarchies and emphasis on dignity, fraternity and liberty offer a universal message relevant to all societies grappling with exclusion and marginalization.

In this global context Ambedkar is no longer just an Indian leader he is a global thinker, whose philosophy continues to inspire transformative visions of justice, equality and human dignity across the world.

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