



The Influence of Buddhism on Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar

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Abstract: Buddhism, India's one of the ancient and humanitarian religion played a vital role in Indian history and it is the world's fourth largest religion with over 520 million followers, or over 7% of the global population, known as Buddhists. Buddhism encompasses a variety of traditions, beliefs and spiritual practices largely based on original teachings attributed to the Buddha and resulting interpreted philosophies. Though it has originated in India, its tradition and the philosophy spread across the world. Presently worldwide 132 countries are following Buddhism including the countries of Arab peninsula are ready to practice it showing that it is one of the fastest growing Religions of the world. In this we will be discussing about the revival of Buddhism by several great personalities.

Key words: Buddhism, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, philosophy, Neo-society

Introduction

According to UNO survey report of 2006, most of the people across the world are following the philosophy of Buddhism. The Human Rights, knowledge, the scientific values that are incorporated in Buddhism paved the way to establish Neo-society where we cannot find any kind of inequalities in the society and making a person to think in a rational way. So that's why day by day the developing countries are attracting towards Buddhism.

The Important Patrons of Buddhism in Ancient India

Buddhism was very active for 2000 years and flourished as one of the greatest religion of India but after that it had faced several fluctuations due to the influence of foreign religions. In the days Buddha, different republican heads, and the great emperors of India Asoka, Kanishka, Harshavardhana, Satavahanas, Ikshvaka dynasties patronized Buddhism. But after the fall of these kingdoms Buddhism was totally retreated during the reign of the Hindu, Muslim, and

Christian rulers, who did not know any of India's cultural history and also after the destruction of the Buddhism by the Vedic rulers for 500 years the religion slowly lost its glory.

INFLUENCE OF BUDDHISM ON DR. BABA SAHEB AMBEDKAR

The Dalit Buddhist movement is a socio-political movement by Dalits in India started by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It radically reinterpreted Buddhism and created a new school of Buddhism called NAVAYANA. The movement has sought to be a socially and politically engaged form of Buddhism. Though he was born in a Hindu family later on due to the problem of caste that existed in that system so he preferred Buddhism because it gives three principles in combination which no other religion does, Buddhism teaches

PRAJNA means understanding against superstitious and super naturalism .2. KARUNA which means love and 3. SAMANTA which mean equality. And the other reason for Ambedkar to follow Buddhism was There is no place for miracle in Buddhism, Buddha never said



that I am God or I am a messenger of God, Buddha was a teacher, mentor. There is no God or evil in Buddhism, there is no rules to follow in Buddhism, Buddhism is the only religion which scope with modern scientific needs as said by Albert Einstein. Dr. B.R Ambedkar was a highly learned man. Calling him well read is an understatement. He knew that converting to any of the sects of Dharma will still keep him into the Hindu fold and it was only a mental block that needed to be shaken off by the Shudra community. He was aggressively invited by the Muslim and Christian leaders to join them but Ambedkar refused. He considered Sikhism too. However Buddhism is something he had studied for a long time and hence the step to embrace Buddhism. So on October 14th, 1956 was clearly an important movement in Dalit history. On this day, B.R Ambedkar along with 3,65,000 of his Dalit followers decided to exit the folds of Hinduism and embraced Buddhism. Ambedkar's conversion to Buddhism marked a moment when Dalits in the country got a new impetus and a voice that was hitherto constrained by the forefold varna system dominating Hinduism. Ambedkar had long been frustrated by the basic tenets of Hinduism, and considered the inherent characteristics of the religion, particularly the caste system to be a bigger threat to freedom in Indian society than that of the British. Ambedkar that the only way the Dalits could find a place for themselves in Indian society was by way of conversion.

As per Ambedkar, Hinduism had failed to secure basic human rights. "The Hindu society does not give equality of treatment, but the same is easily

achieved by conversion", said Ambedkar in his speech in Mumbai. Further, during his growing up years, there were a number of cultural icons that went on to influence his decision. For instance, as discussed by Gauri Vishwanathan, the 12th century Dalit martyr of South India, Nandanar had a strong influence on him. In fact, Ambedkar's idea of Buddhism was considered to be more modern than the ancient form of Buddhism. "The Buddhism of Ambedkar's late writings recasts the central tenets of ancient Buddhism", wrote Queen in 1996. He went on to dismiss certain parts of Buddhism, particularly aspects of the "four noble truths" which he believed was a later edition to Buddha's teachings due to the influence of Hinduism. Some scholars have gone on to argue that Ambedkar's idea of Buddhism contained within it, the basic values linked to the French Revolution, that being liberty, equality, fraternity.

CONCLUSION

According to 2011 census of India there are 8.4 million Buddhists in India. Navaya Buddhists comprise about 87% (7.3 million) of Indian Buddhist community, and nearly 90% (6.5 million) of all Navayana Buddhists in India live in Maharashtra state. According to indiaspend.com report "Buddhists have a literacy rate of 81.29% higher than the national average of 72.98% according to census data. By the end there is no doubt that the history, culture, heritage, integrity, excellence and the Constitution of the country are constituted all over the foundations of equality that is core principle that found in Buddhism.



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