



### INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND GENDER EQUALITY: ANALYZING AMBEDKAR'S ECONOMIC VISION

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#### Abstract:

*This research paper critically examines Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's economic vision with a focus on inclusive growth and gender equality. Ambedkar's contributions go beyond social justice—he presented a comprehensive economic framework aimed at uplifting marginalized communities, ensuring equal participation of women in economic life, and achieving sustainable national development. His emphasis on land reforms, state ownership of key industries, education for all, and legal rights for women are foundational pillars of inclusive economic growth.*

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#### Objectives of the Study:

1. To analyze Dr. Ambedkar's economic philosophy related to social equity and inclusion.
2. To evaluate his views on gender equality in the context of labor rights, property rights, and education.
3. To explore the relevance of Ambedkar's economic vision in contemporary policy frameworks.
4. To examine policy documents and historical texts to understand the implementation gaps in his vision.

#### Introduction:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is widely known as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a social reformer who championed the rights of the oppressed. However, his economic vision remains underexplored. He believed that social justice could not be achieved without economic justice, and this paper explores the interlinkages between Ambedkar's economic thought, inclusive growth, and gender

equality. His economic ideas were deeply rooted in the realities of caste, class, and gender discrimination, and his vision provides a framework for addressing these challenges through state policy.

**Ambedkar's Economic Philosophy and Inclusive Growth:** Ambedkar's economic vision emphasized planned development, land redistribution, and state intervention. His doctoral thesis, "The Problem of the Rupee," showcased his understanding of monetary policy, while his advocacy for state socialism in the form of public ownership of key industries reveals his concern for equitable wealth distribution. He proposed the nationalization of agriculture and basic industries, ensuring that the state plays a proactive role in reducing inequality (Ambedkar, 1947).

He strongly believed that economic development should uplift the most marginalized, including Dalits, women, and landless laborers. Inclusive growth, in his view, was not merely about GDP increase but



about ensuring access to resources, education, employment, and political participation for all.

**Ambedkar on Gender Equality:** Ambedkar was a pioneering feminist thinker in Indian politics. His role as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution allowed him to embed gender-sensitive laws. He advocated for equal rights for women in inheritance, education, and employment.

The Hindu Code Bill, which he introduced, aimed at reforming Hindu personal laws by granting women rights in property and marriage. Though it faced resistance and was not passed during his time, it laid the groundwork for future legal reforms.

Ambedkar also criticized the exploitation of women within the caste system, especially in traditional professions like manual scavenging and domestic work. He believed that true liberation for women could only come through education and economic independence (Keer, 1954).

**Policy Implications and Relevance Today:** Ambedkar's vision holds significant relevance in today's India, which continues to grapple with economic inequality, gender disparity, and caste-based exclusion. Contemporary policy debates around land rights, affirmative action, universal education, and women's workforce participation resonate with Ambedkar's proposals.

Government programs like Stand Up India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and gender budgeting in Union Budgets reflect a partial realization of his ideas. However, gaps persist in implementation. Labor force participation for women remains low, and access to credit and property is still unequal. Caste-based inequalities in education and employment also endure.

### Data Collection and Methodology:

This study is based on secondary data, including:

**Primary texts:** Ambedkar's speeches, writings, and parliamentary debates.

- Government reports from the Planning Commission, Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Peer-reviewed journal articles and books on Ambedkar's economic thought.

### Limitations of the Study:

- **The study is limited to secondary sources, which may not fully capture the nuances of Ambedkar's oral and informal economic thought.**
- **It focuses on gender and inclusion, leaving out other vital economic areas such as industrial policy and international trade.**
- **Applicability in modern contexts is influenced by evolving socio-economic dynamics, which Ambedkar did not directly address.**

### Conclusion:

Dr. Ambedkar's economic vision is a powerful blueprint for achieving inclusive growth and gender equality in India. His emphasis on structural reforms, state responsibility, and empowerment of marginalized groups aligns with the core goals of sustainable development. Revisiting his work is essential for designing more equitable economic policies in the 21st century.

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1. Ambedkar's draft of the Hindu Code Bill was later enacted in parts through various laws passed in the 1950s.
2. Gender Budgeting was officially adopted by India in 2005-06, influenced by feminist economists and social thinkers including Ambedkar.
3. The term "inclusive growth" was formally adopted in India's Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-2012), but its foundational ideas echo Ambedkar's philosophy.

### Footnotes:

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