



AMBEDKARIAN PERSPECTIVE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ITS RELEVANCE IN TODAY'S DREAM OF "VIKSIT BHARAT"

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Abstract:

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is one such great leader, thinker and intellectual of his time in India who has not only changed the life of millions of untouchables but also shaped India as the biggest democratic nation in the world by writing constitution. What are well known of all of us about Dr. Ambedkar are his efforts towards elimination of caste system in India. But what is not known to many of us about Babasaheb and his economic thoughts and contribution to our nation. Hence, a detailed deliberation about his contribution to Economic development, more particularly to Indian economy is the need of the hour.

This paper examines the economic ideas of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was one of the most influential Indian social reformer, politician and economic thinker of the 20th century, in various domains such as land reforms, economic growth with justice, the problem of Indian rupee, public finance, labour welfare, water management, and planned economic development in India. The economic vision of Dr. Ambedkar was deeply rooted in his commitment to social justice, equality, and the democratic ideals of India. This paper delves into his economic development perspectives and its relevance to today's forecasted vision of Viksit Bharat in India. Finally, the current paper explores his vision for the economic development with social justice in India. Where he envisaged a modern, industrialised and prosperous nation that prioritised social welfare and equality. The paper also highlights the enduring relevance and need of Dr. Ambedkar's economic thoughts in contemporary India, where his ideas on economic development with social justice and inclusive development will inspire the policymakers, scholars and state to achieve the milestones of Viksit Bharat, by 2047.

Key words: *Indian Economy, Citizens Development, Social Development, Economic Development, Justice with Equality, Viksit Bharat.*

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Introduction:

"History shows that where ethics and economics come in conflict, victory is always with economics."

-Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

"Dr. B.R.Ambedkar is my father in Economics.... His contribution in the field of economics is marvellous



and will be remembered forever....” (Professor Amartya Sen, 6th Indian Nobel Laureate)

Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar is one of the popular multidimensional personality in the world, also he was a renowned economic thinker. He has made not only social, political but also significant economic contribution to the Indian economy. As far as Indian society is concern Dr. Ambedkar was popularly known as social reformer and Father of Indian Constitution, but his role as a great economist was not so much popular. One should not forget, He was a student and professor of economics. His economic thoughts on agricultural and land reforms, Currency System, Taxation policy, Industrialization, Market Economy, Population control, Citizens Development, Labour Welfare, Water Management, Economic development with Justice and Equality, needs attention to achieve the targets of today's policy maker and Government of India for **“Sabka Saat, Sabka Vikas”** and that is the forecasted vision for **Viksit Bharat**. However, Dr. Ambedkar strongly believes that the fundamental cause to our socio-economic backwardness of Indian economy was the delay in changing and implementing the economic policies for the welfare of the society. According to him the solution was democratic collectivism that entails economic efficiency, productivity and overhauling the village economy of India. His idea of economic realism sought both freedom and welfare. Dr. Ambedkar is one such great leader, thinker and intellectual of his time in India who has not only changed the life of millions of untouchables but also shaped India as the biggest democratic nation in the world by writing constitution. The well-known thing to all of us about Ambedkar is the efforts towards elimination of caste system in India. But, many of us are not aware about his economic thoughts and contribution to our country. Hence, a detailed deliberation about his contribution to Economics, in

the era of Viksit Bharat, through the development of Citizen, Society and Economy, more particularly to Indian economy is the need of the hour.

Research Methodology:

This paper is based on the qualitative or the descriptive methodology of research. We have used the secondary data or information for this research. That is the published information, books, journals, University publication, Magazines and Research Articles of Scholars. Information is also collected through the different websites. Dr. Ambedkar had deep knowledge of various economic policies and its implications for the welfare of economy. The major contributions of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to the principles of welfare economics are very much important for the forecasting of “Viksit Bharat” in today's India.

This research paper has been divided into four quarters, the first quarter highlights the introduction and research method used for the article. The second quarter defines the concept and attributes of a Viksit Bharat. The third quarter elaborates the need of Ambedkarian vision for the achievement of dreams towards Viksit Bharat. And the fourth quarter concludes the article.

What is a concept of Viksit Bharat?

It is important to define what is “Viksit Bharat”. It is a Bharat which will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today. It is a Bharat whose social, cultural, technological, economical, and institutional features will mark it out as a developed nation with a rich heritage and one that is capable of functioning at the frontiers of knowledge. The World Bank defines high income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than US\$ 14,005 in 2023. India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by the centenary of its independence in 2047.



However, being a developed nation- a Viksit Bharat cannot be reduced to a single monetary attribute. It would have to signify a good quality of life for individuals and enable a society which is vibrant, culturally rich and harmonious. Some of the attributes of a Viksit Bharat would be:

a) In a Viksit Bharat, every Citizen will have

- I. Universal access to high quality services including quality housing, 24 x 7 pure drinking water and electricity supply, high-speed broadband banking facilities.
- II. A healthy life with high life expectancy and access to world-class and affordable health services
- III. Meaningful education and skills for all with universal literacy and multi-disciplinary, life-long learning.
- IV. Full employment and prosperous livelihoods, being part of global workforce, and living in a society with abundant job and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- V. A lifestyle enabled by technology in all spheres including advanced technologies such as AO-enabled medicine, education and agriculture.
- VI. State-of-the-art infrastructure including public transportation.

b) In a Viksit Bharat, the Economy will have

- I. Be a leading global economy, a driver of global economy growth, a magnet of global talent, trade and capital. Its cities and market will be among the largest and top-most business and financial centres of the world.
- II. Have Indian-origin Global Business Champions in manufacturing, services, agriculture, R&D and innovation with Indian firms working on the frontiers of innovation, technology and scale.

III. Have a vibrant rural economy with rural standards of living at par with urban areas and average rural incomes (both farm and non-farm) comparable with the per capita income of the country.

IV. Be an inclusive and democratic development role model for the world, a key member at global forums, and a catalyst for dialogue and peace.

c) In a Viksit Bharat, the Society will have

- I. Deeply rooted in its ancient culture and heritage with a globally celebrated civilization. Festivals, arts, spirituality and sports will be integral to its social life.
- II. An environmentally conscious community, committed to global environmental obligations, maintaining a large forest cover and protected natural ecosystems.
- III. Having a thriving family ecosystem anchored in a harmonious and cohesive social order.
- IV. Completely rid of absolute poverty with its citizens having a dignified and secure life. They will have adequate social safety nets with a sensitive policing and justice delivery system.

On the basis of above individual, economic and social futuristic goals, India is at a turning point in its history. The 21st century can be India's century, as the country pole-vaults into the future confident of its capabilities. It is the 5th largest economy in the world today and by most estimates will be the world's 3rd largest economy by 2027 as its GDP crosses US\$ 5 trillion. By 2047, India is capable of becoming a US\$ 30 trillion economy with the quality of life of a developed nation. It will be a Viksit Bharat.

Need for an Ambedkarian Vision in the era of Viksit Bharat:

There is a great opportunity ahead of us in terms of our inherent strengths, global megatrends in our favour



and the capabilities that we have demonstrated. We have largely resolved the problems of the last century of providing basic services, and have citizens now aspiring for a better quality of life. We therefore need to work to fulfil these aspirations by making India a developed country. A Viksit Bharat by 2047.

If we are to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, we need to follow the Ambedkarian vision which can take us there. The vision should lay down what a Viksit Bharat would be like and what measures we should collectively take to make that vision a reality. Having a vision will lay down our long-term ambition and the pathways to realise it. All actions that we take can then be aligned with this vision and ensure that we leverage our turning point like others have done to be a developed nation. The Ambedkarian vision will act as a guide for all actions that we take in the short or medium term, and keep us on the right track. Hence this is the right time to follow the ideology of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to lay down a vision for Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Ambedkarian Vision for Indian Citizen, Society and Economy development:

Brief overview of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's vision for Citizens Development,

Housing Dr. Ambedkar advocated for affordable and dignified housing for all, emphasizing the need for well-planned urban settlements that accommodate the marginalized, ensure basic amenities, and promote social equality. **Water Management** He emphasized the importance of equitable access to clean water, asserting that water management should prioritize the needs of disadvantaged communities and promote sustainable practices to ensure availability for future generations. **Electricity** Dr. Ambedkar envisioned universal access to electricity as a fundamental right, aiming to harness energy for development, improve living conditions, and drive economic growth, particularly in rural areas, to reduce disparities.

Banking He called for an inclusive banking system that provides access to financial resources for all, particularly the marginalized, to foster entrepreneurship and self-reliance, thereby ensuring economic empowerment and social justice. **Health** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar suggested that, allocation of public expenditure should be higher like developed countries for healthy nation. Dr. Ambedkar believed in a robust public health system that guarantees access to quality healthcare for all citizens, stressing the need for preventive care and addressing social determinants of health to eliminate inequalities. **Literacy** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar used to say, education should not be a sellable commodity, he opposed to the privatisation of education sector. He also advocated that, universal literacy as essential for empowerment, advocating for education systems that cater to the needs of the underprivileged and promote critical thinking, enabling individuals to achieve socio-economic mobility. **Employment** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar suggested in his memorandum government should take the lead to provide the employment in Economy. He sought equitable employment opportunities, promoting policies that ensure fair wages and job security, particularly for marginalized communities, to dismantle caste-based discrimination and promote social justice. **Entrepreneurship** He encouraged the development of a supportive environment for entrepreneurship, focusing on providing resources, training, and access to markets for marginalized groups to boost their economic independence and self-sufficiency. **Technology** Dr. Ambedkar recognized the transformative potential of technology in improving living standards, advocating for its inclusive adoption to ensure that advancements benefit all sectors of society, especially disadvantaged communities. **Agriculture** He promoted modern agricultural practices and equitable land reforms to empower farmers, advocating for policies that ensure



fair prices, access to technologies, and sustainable practices that enhance productivity and livelihoods.

Infrastructure Dr. Ambedkar emphasized the need for comprehensive infrastructure development to support economic growth and social integration, advocating for transport, sanitation, and connectivity that benefit all communities, particularly the marginalized.

Brief overview of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's vision for Economies Development,

Leading Global Economy Dr. Ambedkar envisioned a robust global economy where social justice and equality are fundamental. He believed that economic growth should encompass the marginalized sections of society, ensuring that development is equitable and benefits all.

Leading Financial Centers Dr. Ambedkar advocated for establishing inclusive financial institutions that empower the economically disadvantaged. He aimed for financial centres to facilitate access to capital and encourage entrepreneurship among the underprivileged, bolstering their economic participation.

Manufacturing Emphasizing industrialization, Dr. Ambedkar envisioned a manufacturing sector that generates jobs and uplifts the socially oppressed. He believed that modern industries should prioritize labor rights and fair wages to ensure inclusive benefits from economic development.

R & D Dr. Ambedkar stressed the importance of research and development as drivers of innovation and progress. He advocated for investment in education and technological advancement to empower marginalized communities, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to society.

Rural and Urban Economy Dr. Ambedkar aimed for a balanced development of both rural and urban economies, ensuring that rural areas receive adequate resources for growth. He believed in creating a symbiotic relationship between these economies to foster holistic national development.

Per Capita Income of Rural and Urban People According to Dr.

Ambedkar, per capita income should reflect equitable growth. He emphasized the importance of uplifting rural incomes to match urban levels, arguing that equitable distribution of wealth was essential for social harmony and progress.

Inclusive Development Dr. Ambedkar's vision for inclusive development was rooted in the idea that all social groups, especially the marginalized, should have equal access to resources and opportunities. He believed that true progress can only be achieved through the empowerment of all citizens.

Development with Justice and Peace Dr. Ambedkar championed development that is not only economically beneficial but also socially just. He argued that without justice and peace, development would be superficial, calling for a society where rights are upheld and harmony prevails among all communities.

Brief overview of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's vision for the development of Society,

Cultural Life in Indian Society Dr. Ambedkar emphasized the importance of cultural rights and the promotion of a diverse and inclusive cultural identity. He argued that the upliftment of marginalized communities should be reflected in cultural narratives, fostering a society that values knowledge, tradition, and dialogue across different social groups.

Environment Protection Policies Dr. Ambedkar recognized the interdependence of society and the environment, advocating for sustainable practices that protect natural resources. He believed in policies that prioritize ecological balance while ensuring that economic development does not come at the expense of the environment, particularly affecting vulnerable populations.

Social Order in Indian Society Dr. Ambedkar envisioned a social order rooted in equality and justice, where caste-based discrimination and hierarchies are abolished. He advocated for a restructured social framework that promotes fraternity and harmonious coexistence among diverse

communities, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all. ***Rid of Absolute Poverty*** Dr. Ambedkar believed that eradicating absolute poverty is fundamental for a just society. He emphasized the need for targeted economic policies and social programs that provide essential resources and opportunities to the impoverished, enabling them to break the cycle of poverty and achieve self-sufficiency. ***Social Safety Nets*** Dr. Ambedkar championed the establishment of comprehensive social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable in society. He envisioned policies that provide financial assistance, healthcare, and education, ensuring that all citizens have access to basic needs and support during times of crisis. ***Justice in Delivery of Social Services*** Dr. Ambedkar called for equitable and fair delivery of social services, stressing the importance of accountability and transparency in governance. He believed that justice in service provision not only upholds dignity but also fosters trust between marginalized communities and the state, promoting overall societal welfare.

Conclusion:

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's economic framework was based on social justice and equality principles. He believed that economic development could only be achieved by promoting social equality and ensuring that every member of society had access to education, employment, and equal opportunities. Ambedkar's emphasis on agrarian reform, industrialisation, and human capital development was critical to his economic vision for India. He recognised that economic growth alone was not enough to achieve social justice and advocated for policies empowering the marginalised sections of society. His ideology remains relevant today, and his economic framework serves as a reminder that economic development and social justice are inseparable. In the 21st Century, Ambedkar's legacy as a visionary economist and

social reformer will inspire today's policy maker of India to strive for a more just and equitable society to achieve the milestones of the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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