



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Departmental Annual Report - 3

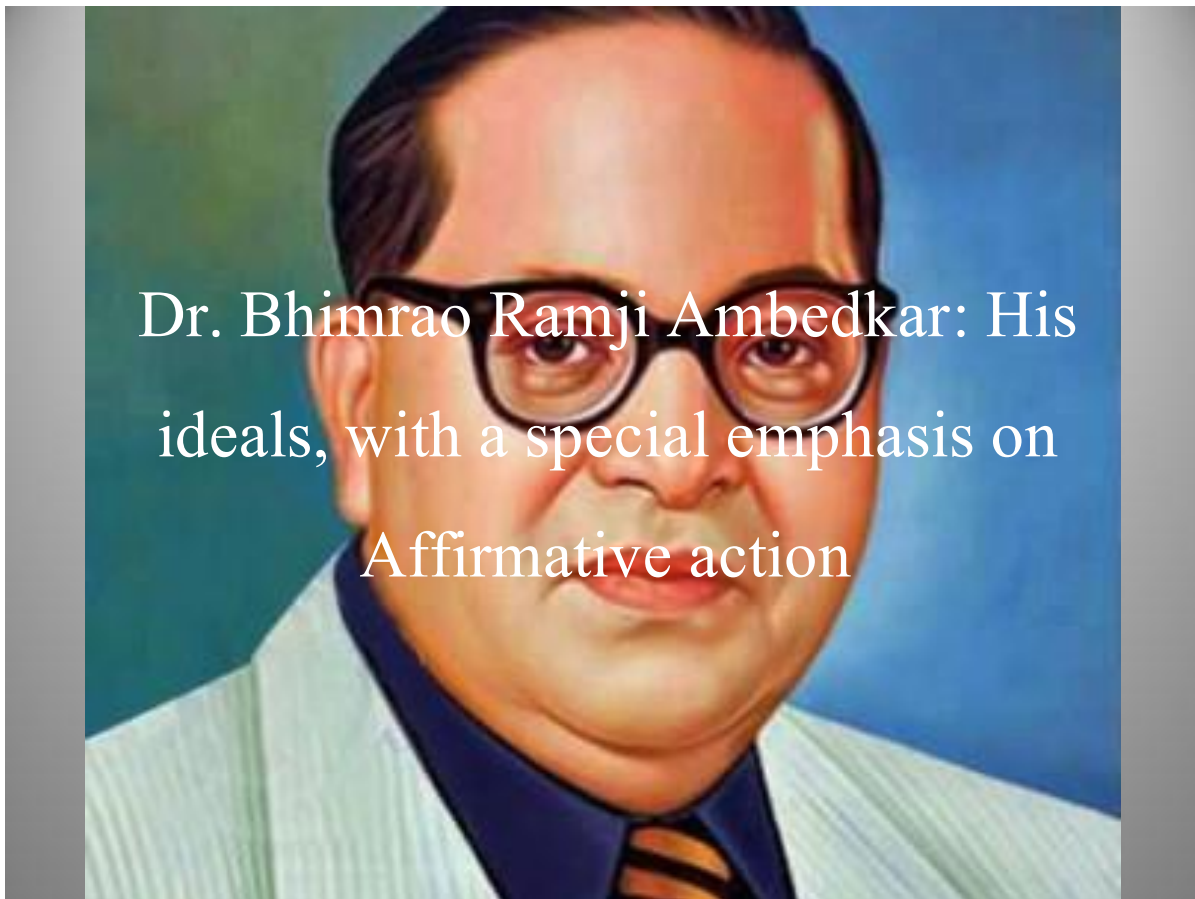
Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond

Department: POLITICAL SCIENCE

Academic Year: 2019-20

Part A.1

Students undertaking project work/field work/internship as part of experiential learning component of coursework





Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Introduction

- Ambedkar was a Indian jurist, economist, politician and social reformer who inspired the Dalit Buddhist movement and campaigned against social discrimination against Untouchables (*Dalits*), while also supporting the rights of women and labour.
- He was Independent India's first law minister, the principal architect of the Constitution of India and a founding father of the Republic of India.



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

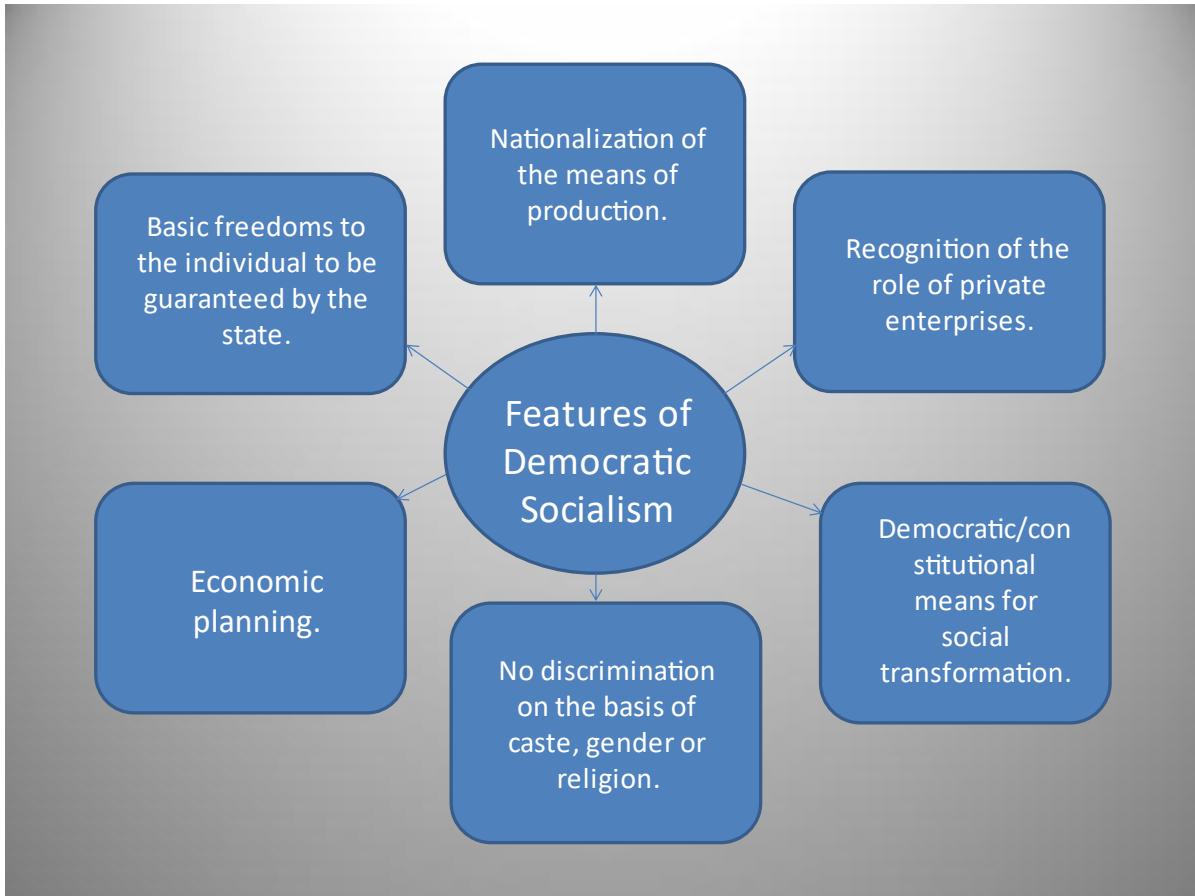
Works of Ambedkar

- *Castes in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development and 11 Other Essays*
- *Ambedkar in the Bombay Legislature, with the Simon Commission and at the Round Table Conferences , 1927–1939*
- *Philosophy of Hinduism; India and the Pre-requisites of Communism; Revolution and Counter-revolution; Buddha or Karl Marx*
- *Riddles in Hinduism*
- *Essays on Untouchables and Untouchability*
- *The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India*
- *The Untouchables: Who Were They? And Why they became Untouchables*
- *The Annihilation of Caste (1936)*
- *Pakistan or the Partition of India*



Miranda House

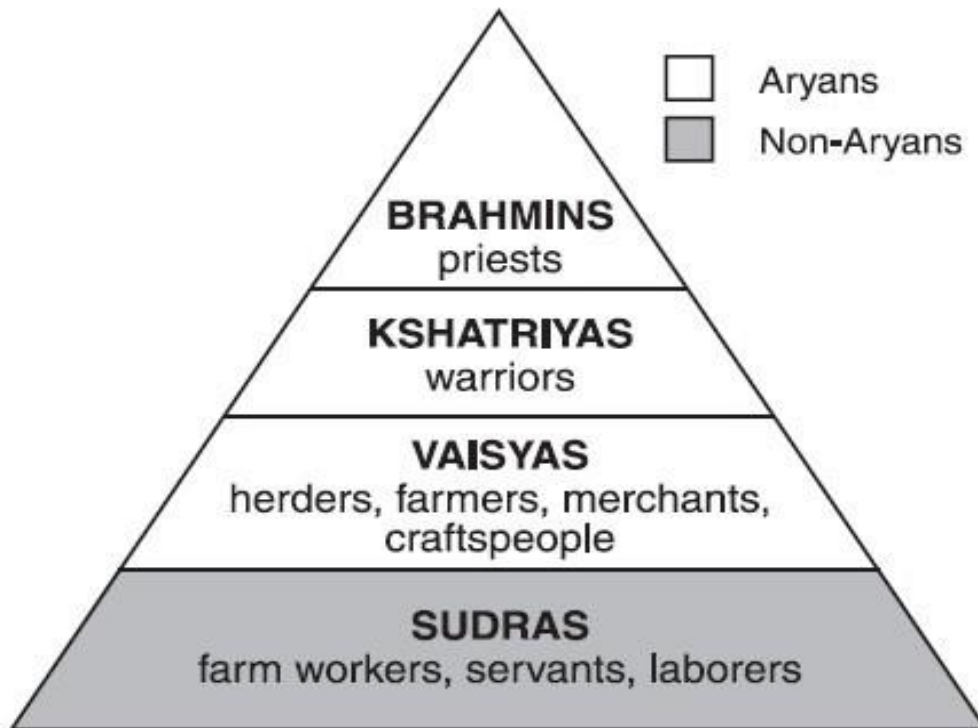
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI





Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*,
Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Faith in the constitutional means of social transformation

His disapproval of violence as a matter of principle

His rejection of dictatorship

His belief that social change secured through peaceful means and consent of people is more durable and sustainable



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Social Justice

- ❖ Refers to a distinct aspect of the socio economic and political system of the country through which concentrated and coordinated measures are initiated, aimed at amelioration the position of the disadvantaged classes in society
- ❖ He argued for a set of comprehensive socio economic and political preferential and supportive policy measures to uplift the status of the depressed class in society
- ❖ Protective and promotional measures needed to be put in the constitution
- ❖ He wanted autonomous political representation of the depressed classes in political institutions
- ❖ He argued for RESERVATION for the depressed classes as he felt that it would lead to social recognition and economic upliftment



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Why not Economic Reservation?

- Many later thinkers have derived from the ideals of Ambedkar and give the following justifications:
 1. The poverty prevailing among the Dalit-Bahujans has its genesis in the social-religious deprivations based on caste system. Therefore poverty is an effect and caste system a cause. The solution should strike at the cause and not the effect
 2. An individual's Economic status can change. Low income may be taken to mean poverty. But the purchasing value of money, in India, depends upon caste. For example a Dalit can not buy a cup of tea even in some places.
 3. Practical difficulties in proving economic status of individual to the state machinery are many. The weak may suffer.

Mili Bharadwaj
BA(H) Political Science, Second Year

Farmer's Predicament

National Sample Survey Organisation, in a special 2003 Situation Assessment study, reported that 40 per cent of Indian farmers, given a choice, would "take up some other career".

It is a depressing fact that even after half of India's population works on farms, farming contributes only 15% to the country's GDP. The issue of farmers distress has always been there but the kind of mass suicides that have taken place in last few years is matter of concern. P. Sainath said " This country could have a joint special session of Parliament at midnight to pass the GST bill but it could not find a single day, for its tens of millions of farmers in the past fourteen years." The problem with today's agriculture sector are wide, ranging from disjuncture between farmers' interests and the interest of the political representatives. And shockingly, large number of farmer suicides have been reported in those areas which are relatively agriculturally developed, which have seen strong peasant movements and where the leadership of parties come from farming communities as pointed by K C Suri in his article " Political Economy of Agrarian Distress."



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

With agriculture no longer viewed as a conduit for upward mobility, the nature of farmers' demands has changed to seeking options outside of agriculture.

Also, large proportions of political representatives who claim to come from a farmer's background, farmer's interest hardly find a space in their imaginations.

The recent Kisan Mukti March organised by ALL INDIA KISAN SANGHARSH COORDINATION COMMITTEE in November 2018 demanded better crop prices, drought relief and loan waivers and a three-week parliament session on agrarian distress apart from demand of bills on debt and remunerative prices, and also the mega water crisis, land reforms, the rights of women, Dalit and Adivasi farmers.

Thus, in dealing with today's crisis in agriculture where farmers have to face tough competition due to liberalisation policies, it becomes important to recognise what kind of future we want for our agriculture; Corporate driven or Community driven, because by simply letting people abandon primary sector would not tackle the problem and moreover would increase unemployment, slums and poverty. One major change that has taken place over years is that large section of middle class has also joined hands in support of the farmers, one such amorphous organisation is Nation for "Farmers", which is not a farmers' organisation but include groups like doctors, teachers, students, lawyers, labourers from different state.

It is time for us to relook and reevaluate the solemn resolve to constitute India into a socialist democratic republic. Farmers being an important part of our country, we need to revisit whether the ideal of justice, equality, liberty has been secured for them in the present situation? If not , how and when, is the question.



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
