

A Virtual Exhibition on Life Journey of
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
on the Occasion of Birth Anniversary of
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
organized by Gujarat University Library.





Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Chief Architect of Indian Constitution



Bharat Ratna Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar is popularly known as Babasaheb, Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. He was a world-class lawyer, social reformer and number one world-class scholar as per the Ministry of Social Justice, Government of India. He was credited to be the force behind the Dalit Buddhist movement in India.

He is also known as the father of the Indian Constitution. His efforts to eradicate social evils like untouchability and caste discrimination were notable.





Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Early Life



Ambedkar's Date of Birth: 14 April 1891

Ambedkar's Birthplace: Mhow, Madhya Pradesh (now Dr Ambedkar Nagar)

Ambedkar's Death: 6 December 1956 (age 65)

Other Names: Babasaheb Ambedkar

Nationality: Indian

Ambedkar's Father: Ramji Maloji Sakpal

Ambedkar's Mother: Bhimabai

Wife: Ramabai Ambedkar (married 1906 - died 1935), Dr. Savita Ambedkar (married 1948 - died 2003)





Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Early Life



Ambedkar's Son: Yashwant Bhimrao Ambedkar

Grandson: Prakash Ambedkar

**Ambedkar's Educational degrees: University of Mumbai (BA),
Columbia University (MA, PhD, LL.D.), London
School of Economics (MSc, DSC), Gray's Inn (Barrister-at-Law)**



**Awards / Honors: Bodhisattva (1956), Bharat Ratna (1990), First
Colombian Ahead of Their Time (2004), The Greatest Indian (2012)**

**Ambedkar's Political Party: Scheduled Caste Federation, Independent
Labor Party, Republican Party of India**

Social Organization: Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha, Samata Sainik Dal



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar : Childhood & Early Life



Bhimrao Ambedkar was born to Bhimabai and Ramji on 14 April 1891 in Mhow Army Cantonment, Central Provinces (Madhya Pradesh). Ambedkar's father was a Subedar in the Indian Army and after his retirement in 1894, the family moved to Satara, also in Central Provinces. Shortly after this, Bhimrao's mother passed away. Four years later, his father remarried and the family shifted to Bombay. In 1906, 15 year old Bhimrao married Ramabai, a 9 year old girl. His father Ramji Sakpal died in Bombay, in 1912.

Throughout his childhood, Ambedkar faced the stigmas of caste discrimination. Hailing from the Hindu Mahar caste, his family was viewed as "untouchable" by the upper classes. The discrimination and humiliation haunted Ambedkar at the Army school. Fearing social outcry, the teachers would segregate the students of lower class from that of Brahmins and other upper classes. The untouchable students were often asked by the teacher to sit outside the class. After shifting to Satara, he was enrolled at a local school but the change of school did not change the fate of young Bhimrao. Discrimination followed wherever he went. After coming back from the US, Ambedkar was appointed as the Defence secretary to the King of Baroda but there also he had to face the humiliation for being an 'Untouchable'.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar : Education



He cleared his matriculation in 1908 from Elphinstone High School. In 1908, Ambedkar got the opportunity to study at the Elphinstone College and obtained his graduate degree in Economics and Political Science in the year 1912 from Bombay University. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the first Indian to get a Doctorate (Ph.D.) degree in Economics from abroad. Besides clearing all the exams successfully Ambedkar also obtained a scholarship of twenty five rupees a month from the Gaekwad ruler of Baroda, Sahyaji Rao III. Ambedkar decided to use the money for higher studies in the USA. He enrolled in the Columbia University in New York City to study Economics. He completed his Master's degree in June 1915 after successfully completing his thesis titled 'Ancient Indian Commerce'.

In 1916, he enrolled in the London School of Economics and started working on his doctoral thesis titled "The problem of the rupee: Its origin and its solution". With the help of the former Bombay Governor Lord Sydenham, Ambedkar became a professor of political economy at the Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics in Bombay. In order to continue his further studies, he went to England in 1920 at his own expense. There he was received the D.Sc by the London University. Ambedkar also spent a few months at the University of Bonn, Germany, to study economics. He received his PhD degree in Economics in 1927. On 8 June, 1927, he was awarded a Doctorate by the University of Columbia. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the first Indian to get a Doctorate (Ph.D.) degree in Economics from abroad.



Some facts of Dr.B.r.Ambedkar



- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's real surname was Ambawadekar. But his teacher, Mahadev Ambedkar, gave him Ambedkar surname in the school records.
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was the first Indian to get a Doctorate (Ph.D.) degree in Economics from abroad.
- Dr. Ambedkar is the only Indian whose statue is attached to Karl Marx in the London Museum.
- The credit of giving place to "Ashok Chakra" in the Indian Tricolour also goes to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Although the National flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya.
- Nobel Prize winner Prof. Amartya Sen considered Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as his father in economics.
- For the better development of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, Babasaheb had proposed division of these states in the 50s, but only after 2000 Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were formed by splitting Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.



Some facts of Dr.B.r.Ambedkar



- Babasaheb's personal library "Rajgirh" consisted of more than 50,000 books and it was the world's largest private library.
- The book "Waiting for a visa" written by Dr. Babasaheb is a textbook at Columbia University. Columbia University made a list of world's top 100 scholars in 2004 and the first name in that list was Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was a master in 64 subjects. He had knowledge of 9 languages like Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit, English, French, German, Marathi, Persian, and Gujarati. Apart from this, he studied all the religions of the world in a comparative way for almost 21 years.
- In the London School of Economics, Babasaheb completed 8 years of studies in just 2 years 3 months. For this, he studied 21 hours a day.
- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's initiation in Buddhism with his 8,50,000 supporters historical in the world, because it was the largest conversion in the world.



Some facts of Dr.B.r.Ambedkar



- **"Mahant Veer Chandramani", a great Buddhist monk who initiated Babasaheb to Buddhism, called him "the modern Buddha of this age".**
- **Babasaheb is the first and only person in the world to receive a valuable doctorate degree named "Doctor All Science" from the London School of Economics. Many intelligent students have tried for it, but they have not been successful until now.**
- **Worldwide, the highest number of songs and books written in the name of the leader is Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.**
- **Governor Lord Linlithgow and Mahatma Gandhi believed that Babasaheb is more intelligent than 500 graduates and thousands of scholars.**
- **Babasaheb was the world's first and only Satyagrahi, who did Satyagraha for drinking water.**
- **In 1954, in the "World Buddhist Council" held in Kathmandu, Nepal, Buddhist monks had given Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar the highest title of Buddhism "Bodhisattva". His famous book "The Buddha and his Dhamma" is the "scripture" of Indian Buddhists**



Some facts of Dr.B.r.Ambedkar



- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had considered three great men, Lord Buddha, Saint Kabir, and Mahatma Phule as their "instructor".
- The highest number of statue in the world is of Babasaheb. His birth anniversary is also celebrated all over the world.
- Babasaheb was the first lawyer from backward class.
- Based on a global survey called "The Makers of the Universe" a list of top 100 humanist people of the last 10 thousand years was made by Oxford University, in which the fourth name was Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- Babasaheb Ambedkar has given many suggestions in the book "The Problem of Rupee-Its Origin & its solution" about the demonetisation that is being discussed all around in the present time.
- Everywhere in the world, Buddha's closed-eyed statues and paintings are visible, but Babasaheb, who was also a good painter, made the first painting of Buddha in which Buddha's eyes were opened.
- The first Statue of Babasaheb was built in the year 1950 when he was alive and this statue is established in Kolhapur city.



Movement Against Caste Discrimination



After returning to India, Bhimrao Ambedkar decided to fight against the caste discrimination that plagued him throughout his life. In his testimony before the Southborough Committee in preparation of the Government of India Act in 1919, Ambedkar opined that there should be separate electoral system for the Untouchables and other marginalised communities. He contemplated the idea of reservations for Dalits and other religious outcasts.

He launched a newspaper called “Mooknayaka” (leader of the silent) in 1920 with the assistance of Shahaji II, the Maharaja of Kolhapur. It is said that after hearing his speech at a rally, Shahu IV, an influential ruler of Kolhapur, dined with the leader. The incident also created a huge uproar in the socio-political arena of the country. He applied his litigious skills in advocating cases of caste discrimination. His resounding victory in defending several non-Brahmin leaders accusing the Brahmins of ruining India, established the bases of his future battles.

By 1927, Ambedkar launched full-fledged movements for Dalit rights. He demanded public drinking water sources open to all and right for all castes to enter temples. He openly condemned Hindu Scriptures advocating discrimination and arranged symbolic demonstrations to enter the Kalaram Temple in Nashik. In 1932, the Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, representative of the Hindu Brahmins relinquishing reservation of seats for the untouchable classes in the Provisional legislatures, within the general electorate. These classes were later designated as Scheduled Classes and Scheduled Tribes.



Political Career



- In 1936, Ambedkar founded the Independent Labor Party. In the 1937 elections to the Central Legislative Assembly, his party won 15 seats. Ambedkar oversaw the transformation of his political party into the All India Scheduled Castes Federation, although it performed poorly in the elections held in 1946 for the Constituent Assembly of India.
- Ambedkar objected to the decision of the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi to call the untouchable community as Harijans. He would say that even the members of untouchable community are same as the other members of the society. Ambedkar was appointed on the Defence Advisory Committee and the Viceroy's Executive Council as Minister for Labor.
- His reputation as a scholar led to his appointment as free India's first Law Minister and chairman of the committee responsible to draft a constitution for independent India.



Drafting of Indian Constitution



Upon India's independence on 15 August 1947, the new Congress-led government invited Ambedkar to serve as the nation's first Law Minister, which he accepted. On 29 August, he was appointed Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, and was appointed by the Assembly to write India's new Constitution. It would be difficult to maintain the unity of the country if the difference among the classes were not met. He put particular emphasis on religious, gender and caste equality. He was successful in receiving support of the Assembly to introduce reservation for members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in education, government jobs and civil services, the abolition of untouchability, India's lawmakers hoped to eradicate the socio-economic inequalities and lack of opportunities for India's depressed classes through these measures. The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 by the Constituent Assembly.





Economical Planning



Ambedkar was the first Indian to pursue a doctorate in economics abroad.[90] He argued that industrialisation and agricultural growth could enhance the Indian economy. He stressed investment in agriculture as the primary industry of India. Ambedkar advocated national economic and social development, stressing education, public hygiene, community health, residential facilities as the basic amenities

In 1951, Ambedkar established the Finance Commission of India. He opposed income tax for low-income groups. He contributed in Land Revenue Tax and excise duty policies to stabilise the economy. He played an important role in land reform and the state economic development.[94] According to him, the caste system divided labourers and impeded economic progress. He emphasised a free economy with a stable Rupee which India has adopted recently He advocated birth control to develop the Indian economy, and this has been adopted by Indian government as national policy for family planning. He emphasised equal rights for women for economic development. He laid the foundation of industrial relations after Indian independence



Famous Quotes of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



“I like the religion that teaches liberty, equality and fraternity.”

History shows that where ethics and economics come in conflict, victory is always with economics. Vested interests have never been known to have willingly divested themselves unless there was sufficient force to compel them.

“I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.”

“If I find the constitution being misused, I shall be the first to burn it.”

“Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.”

“Life should be great rather than long.”

Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realise that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic.”



Famous Books by Dr.B.R. Ambedkar



Dr. B.R.Ambedkar is popularly known as the 'Baba Saheb' by his supporters throughout the world. Babasaheb's personal library Rajgrah had more than 50,000 books and it was the world's largest private library. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had command in 64 subjects. Dr. Ambedkar had knowledge of 9 languages like Hindi, Pali, Sanskrit, English, French, German, Marathi, Persian and Gujarati. Dr. Ambedkar's books are currently counted among most selling books in India.

- **Castes in India: Their Mechanism, Genesis and Development - 1916**
 - **Mook Nayak (weekly) - 1920**
- **The Problem of the Rupee: its origin and its solution - 1923**
 - **Bahishkrut Bharat (India Ostracized) - 1927**
 - **Janta (weekly) - 1930**
 - **The Annihilation of Caste - 1936**
 - **Federation Versus Freedom - 1939**



Famous Books by Dr.B.R. Ambedkar



- **Thoughts on Pakistan - 1940**
- **Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah - 1943**
- **Mr. Gandhi and Emancipation of Untouchables - 1943**
- **What Congress and Gandhi have done to the Untouchables - 1945**
 - **Pakistan Or Partition Of India - 1945**
 - **State and Minorities - 1947**
 - **Who were the Shudras - 1948**
 - **Maharashtra as a Linguistic Province - 1948**
 - **The Untouchables - 1948**
 - **Buddha Or Karl Marx - 1956**
 - **The Buddha and his Dhamma - 1957**

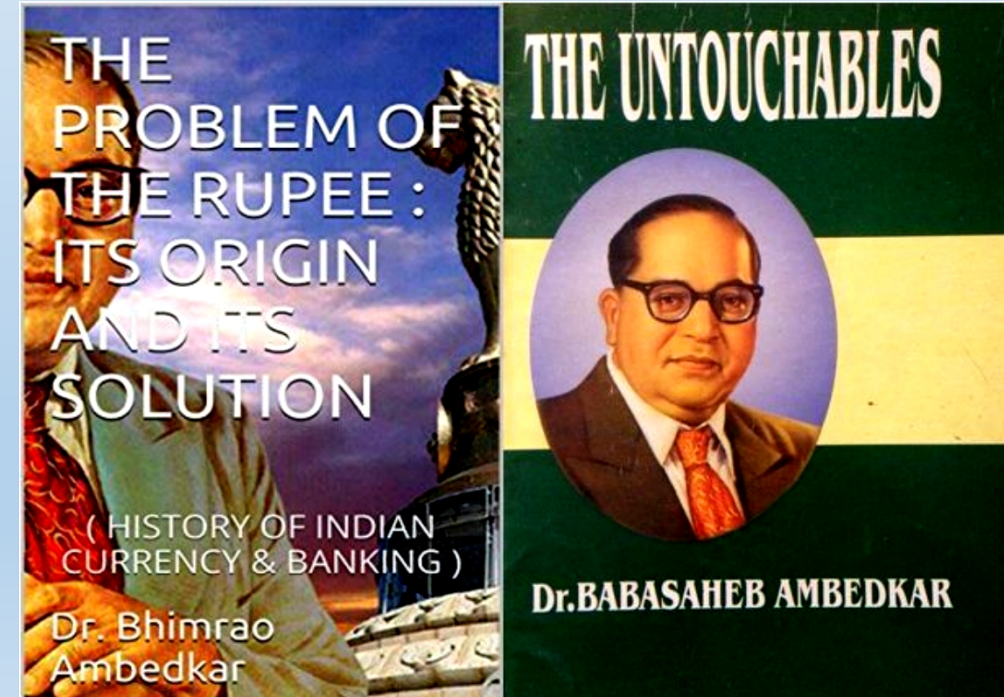


Famous Books by Dr.B.R. Ambedkar



The Education Department, Government of Maharashtra (Mumbai) published the collection of Ambedkar's writings and speeches in different volumes. Apart from the Government of Maharashtra; the Ministry of Social justice also publishes books written by Dr. Ambedkar.

There are two most selling books of Ambedkar are the "Problem of the rupee" and "The Annihilation of caste". These two books are based on the economy of India and the social structure of India respectively. The book argues for the stabilization of monetary affairs and exchange rates. It eventually led to the formation of the Reserve Bank of India in 1935.





Some Glimpse of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar





Some Glimpse of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar





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