

THE STUDY OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR IN HEALTH AND HEALTH-RELATED POLICIES IN INDIA

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Abstract:

The use of the word health does not have an established meaning in the field of biomedical but is conceptualized and various aspects from the perspective of social science. The ideal definition of health in biomedical is concerned with a person's freedom from harmful conditions and bacteria, which is not a complete definition. Nettleton distinguished between the understanding of the term health in different contexts and the causal effect between disease and health. Social writings on health argue that socio-cultural factors influence people's perceptions of health, which is merely a response to physiological changes.

The germ theory of disease ignores other factors of health such as social, economic, cultural, and psychological. Further contemporary discoveries such as Mac Chinoun challenged the understanding of health and death in the year 1976. He hypothesized that the decline in mortality was due to a reduction in infectious diseases and higher levels of nutrition among people. He laid great emphasis on sanitation, public health measures, and the high standard of living of the people as these are important for improving the health of the people. Therefore, the concept of health needs to be broadly described so as to have a comprehensive understanding of human beings and take forward various socio-cultural contexts. This research paper has been written to find the answer to the question that what the contribution of Ambedkar to health and health-related policies in India, what is the importance of public health and the role of the state, and how Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts related to health are relevant even today.

Keywords: Health, Health-Related Policies, Disease, Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts

Data Collection Method Used for Research:

This research depends on secondary data like newspapers, books, magazines, reports, and websites.

The Objective of Research:

- 1) To study the contribution of Ambedkar to health and health-related policies in India
- 2) Knowing the importance of public health and the role of the state
- 3) Understanding basic concepts of health and disease
- 4) To study Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts related to health

Introduction:

Ambedkar saw scope to improve the health status of its citizens in India, although he was not the only public health architect. Ambedkar is remembered only for his long-standing contributions,

which formed the basis of better working conditions for men and women after independence. Health and disease are directly and indirectly dependent on other factors that affect people's life prospects and ability to pursue life.

The presence of the disease depends on the individual's ability to cope with pain and be unwell until reported to health care providers. of any country. Health and health status depends on the policy adopted on public health. Individuals need to know the availability and access to public health in their area of residence. The democratic state has a duty to implement a cost-effective optimal health care policy. Public health is the existence of individuals and the organization of medical care for the people.

Ambedkar's contribution to public health is directly reflected in the Directive Principles of State Policy. When he gave the vision of the welfare state, which guided the Indian government on education, nutrition, housing, health and mines, wages and welfare, etc. Ambedkar tried to provide health facilities wherever there is time. He helped introduce health insurance for industrial workers during his tenure as labor minister in pre-independence India. Despite his declining health, Ambedkar intervened and worked to improve the health of the poor through various policies and their implementation. suggested for. The Drafting Committee of the Constitution of Post-Independent India appreciated Ambedkar's dedication to his intellectual prowess and growth in formulating policies.

He made constant efforts to amend various welfare policies that addressed the health of poor and remote communities. He argued for better working conditions, better housing, and health support provided by the state. When a person is free from any injury or disease, he is considered a healthy person. Moreover, it is not only the absence of disease from the body but also the social, psychological, and mental state of a person. Ambedkar was engaged in the process of making economic policy to improve the overall condition of India and its people. He intervened in a number of policies that affected society, especially in large and outcast groups.

The Contribution of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Health and Health-Related Policies in India:

Ambedkar's writings have found prominence in the policy developments after independence. The tenth edition of the writings and Ambedkar's speech introduced medical care initiatives such as The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill. According to this bill, a woman working in a mine was entitled to maternity benefits for a period of 8 weeks. This eight-week period was divided into two parts, one part before delivery and the other four weeks after delivery, a period of alternate rest during which a woman could work and take full pay or be absent herself. You can also get maternity benefits. Responding to the questions raised in Parliament, Ambedkar said that better health measures for malaria control have been introduced and extended for the construction of hospitals. In this way, they were working for health and cleanliness.

There are many examples in which Ambedkar has emphasized bringing similar policies in India. He writes in his essay Slaves and Untouchables, that slavery was never compulsory in the social system, whereas untouchability was inevitable. Although some gaps in health care services were found in later years, the poor and downtrodden remained health deprived, especially because of the caste-based social structure, even though infrastructure was provided to remote villages. The National Planning Committee (1948) recommended that there should be one community health worker for every 1000 people in the village. The document emphasized that no person, even in remote villages, who is unable to pay, should be denied health services. He believed that the demand for healthcare was changing due to changes in the form of the disease, while public

health was affected by biomedical interventions, medicines, nutritional supplements, sanitation, water, housing, and proper care.

Public health means the state of health of the entire population, monitored, regulated, and promoted by the state in the interest of society and the nation as a whole. In other words, public health is a scientific understanding of the protection and improvement of the health of communities through the promotion of good lifestyles, the prevention of injury and the control of diseases, research base on disease and disease risk. It requires a scientific approach through education, nutrition policymaking, and early on prevention from diseases and obesity.

It is possible because of Ambedkar's efforts to provide a road map for the promotion of health and health care for the people of India, it is possible to strive for a copy of public health as defined above in the framework of the Indian Constitution. The Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 38 of the Indian Constitution state that the State shall endeavor to promote the welfare of the people. Without public health, the welfare of the people is not possible. There are several references to public health in the Constitution, among them Article 30(e) urging the state to protect the health of workers. Article 41 deals with the duties of the State to render public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness, and disability. Article 42 urges the State to protect the health of the child and the mother by providing for fair and humane conditions of work and by providing maternity benefits. Article 47 states that it is the primary duty of the state to improve public health and article 48(a) ensures that the state shall endeavor to protect the environment.

Dr. Ambedkar also took note of the problems faced by the families due to the increasing alcoholism of the workers. He wanted to reduce the unnecessary expenditure of the workers. The owners of the mines had allowed liquor shops to open near the mines, which were eating up the meager savings of wages. He described the problem as a matter of concern. He acted like a champion for the improvement of public health and sanitation, prevention of disease, provision of medical facilities, and improvement of existing facilities and was also included in the Coal Mines Labor Welfare Ordinance, 1944.

Dr. Ambedkar about very important national policies that could reach the poor and those who were later officially called Scheduled Castes. It is for these reasons that the Marr Committee (1946) also affirmed that health services should be made accessible to everyone in the country, even those who have no capacity to pay. He used the formulation and writing of state dedicated health policy to promote health care services, thereby improving the health status of the nation.

Dr. Ambedkar was aware of the spread of communicable and non-communicable diseases. He compelled the government to plan and develop the public health system in India. Ambedkar's writings show that medical relief and preventive health care for the poor was a subject close to his heart. Although he had mostly advocated on other fronts of life.

Dr. Ambedkar's efforts led to the passing of several laws that directly addressed issues of gender and public health improvement, among them the Mines Safety Benefit Act, the Women's Labor Welfare Fund, the Women and Child Labor Protection Act, underground work in coal mines. but includes restoration of restrictions on the employment of women, maternity benefits for female labor, and equal pay for equal work regardless of gender, etc. As a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, Ambedkar actively participated in discussions about the conservation of water and its provision to the people in India. It was clear to Ambedkar that each national policy played an important role in the lives of the poorest, of whom the Scheduled Castes were in large numbers. Ambedkar was involved in a number of policy processes that were relevant to the

people of India in general and his own people in particular. Their discussions on mines and safety, maternity benefits, water, land, and resources, etc., still provide guiding principles today. Dr. Ambedkar believed that the health of the people of India is the most important. Without it, the right to walk the great paths of the world with dignity could be turned into a reality. The Joseph More Committee (1946) was set up to formulate a policy for healthcare in post-independent India. Efforts were made to make the remote villages suitable for health care and access to the poor masses. Ambedkar emphasized the need for state-dedicated health plans.

Dr. Ambedkar believed that any health policy should first address the poor. For him, the oppressed class and the Dalits of today were important. The report of the National Health (Sokhi) Sub-Committee of the National Planning Committee (1948) was an important document, which also finds its support. Disease prevention is an important area of the public sector. Health policy that promotes healthy lifestyle choices, safe and healthy environmental and social conditions that contribute to reducing risk and delaying the onset of poor health and disease. The Bhor Committee had taken policy initiatives that were even stronger than the results made in the aftermath of the National Health Policy Statement.

Through the Coal and Inexhaustible Mines Provident Fund, Ambedkar amended the bill to help workers with housing, water supply, the standard of living, improved public health, sanitation, disease prevention, and provision of medical facilities. Policy recommendations were made for Ayurveda and Unani health systems to play an inclusive role in the state health system. Given the understanding of the Indian public, Ambedkar found the recommendation of this policy very noteworthy, as it has already been a part of the traditional Indian health care system.

Such provisions in the Constitution of India have directed the government to formulate public health policy and have helped in understanding public health. Thus, policy for the betterment of the Indian society was largely derived from discussion in the encyclopedias, which later found its way into the Constitution of India, whose origins emerge from Ambedkar's initiative.

Conclusion:

There are important dimensions to public health in India that can be taught in relation to them in some policy decisions. The second dimension of public health in India is the active participation of the people. So, making this system accessible to essential and social groups with the cooperation of the people is the demand of today. Health services are conducted in the area of public health and an inter-sectoral approach is needed to increase the breadth of health care programs for the people of India. Quite relevant is Ambedkar's better policies, reducing working hours, a good wage for the livelihood of poor workers, etc. are some of the aspects included in this policy. As defined earlier, the state of health and disease is not only determined on the basis of the biomedical ideal of disease, but it is also important to look at it from the perspective of an individual's social, psychological, and mental health.

Suggestions:

- It is necessary to secure the active cooperation of the people in the development of health programs.
- Workers should be trained on a large scale and the health of the people should be handed over to them.
- There is a need for continuous revision of various policies based on the changing situation and disease burden.

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