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## DR. AMBEDKAR'S JOURNALISM; THE VOICE AND VISION OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES

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### ABSTRACT :

*Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was prolific Journalis who used newspapers and Magazines as powerful tool to advocate for the social justice and right of marginalised communities in India. He founded several publications such as Mooknayak, Bahishkrut Bharat and Janata, to give voice the voiceless and challenge the prevailing social order. Dr. Ambedkar recognized that the mainstream media often ignored or misrepresented the plight of the Depressed Classes. His publications played a crucial role in rising awareness about the injustice faced by marginalised communities and challenging dominant narrative in Indian society.*



**Keywords :** *prolific journalist, publications, including Mooknayak, Bahishkrut Bharat, and Janata.*

### INTRODUCTION:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a prolific journalist who used newspapers and magazines as powerful tools to advocate for social justice and the rights of marginalized communities in India. He founded several publications, including Mooknayak, Bahishkrut Bharat, and Janata, to give voice to the voiceless and challenge the prevailing social order. His journalism was characterized by well-researched articles, insightful editorials, and a commitment to social reform. Journalism in India was once a profession. It has now become a trade. It has no more moral function than the manufacture of soap. It does not regard itself as the responsible adviser of the Public. "Prabuddha Bharat" was a newspaper founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. It was initially launched as "Janata" in 1930, and later renamed "Prabuddha Bharat" (meaning "Enlightened India") on February 4, 1956. The newspaper served as a platform for Ambedkar to convey his final message to his people and promote social justice, equality, and the adoption of Buddhism.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY;

The objectives of the present study are to examine the journalistic nature of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and yet the same time how journals and newspapers played important role in creating the awareness among the depressed classes and the injustice faced by the common masses of the India.

### ➤ **Ambedkar's journalistic endeavour's:**

**Mooknayak (1920):** (Marathi: मूकनायक; lit. "the Leader of Voiceless" or "The Hero of the Dumb") was a Marathi fortnightly-Newspaper founded by B. R. Ambedkar in 1920. The newspaper aimed to reveal the pain and rebellion of society. Mooknayak's inaugural issue was published on 31 January 1920 and the first issue of Prabuddha Bharat came out on 4 February 1956. In between, he launched Bahishkrit Bharat (India of the outcastes) on 3 April 1927, Samata on 29 June 1928 and Janata on 25 November 1930. Ambedkar's first major journalistic venture, a Marathi fortnightly, aimed to give voice to the oppressed and highlight their struggles.

For the first 12 issues of *Mooknayak*, Ambedkar wrote almost everything. For *Bahishkrit Bharat* too, he himself wrote all the reports, editorials and commentaries – without any extra staff. Through his work, he pointed out the callousness of so-called upper castes and demanded for opening public water sources to the Scheduled Castes. **Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)** This half-monthly newspaper focused on social reform and challenged the caste system. **Janata (1930)** A weekly magazine that served as a platform for Ambedkar's views and continued for 26 years. **Prabuddha Bharat (1956)** Another significant publication that continued his advocacy for social justice. **Purpose** Ambedkar's journalism was driven by a desire to educate, organize, and agitate for the rights of the marginalized, particularly the Dalits.

➤ **Impact:** His publications played a crucial role in raising awareness about the injustices faced by marginalized communities and challenging the dominant narratives in Indian society. His insightful interventions through his newspapers were well-recognized even by his opponents. Ambedkar's journalism emphasized well-researched and well-written articles, with a scholarly approach and a clear articulation of his views. He believed in using journalism as a means to bring about social change.

### ➤ **Voice and vision of depressed classes**

- **Ambedkar's Journalism as a Voice for the Voiceless:** Dr. Ambedkar recognized that the mainstream media often ignored or misrepresented the plight of the Depressed Classes. He established newspapers like Mooknayak, Bahishkrit Bharat, Samata, and Janata to provide a platform for their voices and perspectives.
- **Challenging the Caste System:** Through his journalism, Ambedkar actively criticized the traditional Hindu caste system and the discriminatory practices it perpetuated. He exposed the social injustices and inequalities faced by the Depressed Classes and called for social reform.
- **Empowering the Depressed Classes:** Ambedkar's journalism served as a powerful tool for educating and mobilizing the Depressed Classes. He used it to raise awareness about their rights, encourage them to organize and fight for their liberation, and inspire them to pursue education and self-improvement.
- **Promoting Social Justice and Equality:** Ambedkar's vision extended beyond just highlighting the problems of the Depressed Classes. He used his journalism to advocate for a just and equitable society where all individuals, regardless of their caste, had equal opportunities and rights.
- **Influence on Social Movements:** Ambedkar's journalistic endeavors played a significant role in shaping the Dalit movement and inspiring social reform efforts aimed at eradicating caste discrimination and promoting social justice.

Dr. Ambedkar, in spite of his busy schedule with the political activities and his various assignments as the member of Viceroy's Council, or as the Chairman of the Indian Constitution Drafting Committee, found time to write for his magazines. He even used to send editorials while he was overseas during the Round Table Conferences and during other tours outside India. The standard of the writing was of utmost importance to him. He used to prepare editorials by writing all through the nights, but never compromised on the quality of writing.

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## CONCLUSION

An intellectual beyond measure and a leader of principles, Dr B.R. Ambedkar was against the commercialisation of journalism and was disgusted by biased reporting that only peddled concocted fiction. Today, Ambedkar's words echo as a reminder of how Ambedkar believed that unless Bahujans get due representation in the media; the selection, coverage, and dissemination of information would continue being casteist and as several reports suggest, this has continued hitherto. Many a time there has been cross writing by both of them referring to the writings of their respective journals. He has made many efforts to eradicate the social evils through journal by writing problems and prospective of the cast system and untouchability in our society.

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