



## Dr. B R Ambedkar's Social Movements and his Followers in Vijayapur District India Historical View

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### Abstract

*This paper explores the social movements by Dr. Ambedkars, it also give emphasis on his followers in the Vijayapur district of the north Karnataka In order to find evidences of social movements inspired by him. Several vernacular reviews of literature have been done. Mouth to mouth conversation by the forth fathers, and personal interviews of some personality, who were part of movements are the major source of this study. Several photographs, folk literature and un-erased memory of forth fathers regarding his visits helped alot to prepare this primitive job. Paper lightens on the implications of the social movements and relation of Dr. Ambedkar in this region. We found that, Dr. Ambedkar visit helped to followers to inculcate high moral of movements, as well as Dalits to aware about their Social, Economic, Religious, Educational and political rights. Many other implications have been discussed with this study.*

**Keywords:** Dr. B R Ambedkar, Social Movements, Followers, Untouchability, Devadasi cult, Rights.

### Introduction

Dr. Bhimarao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as a Babasaheb, was an Indian political thinker, great writer, economic advisor, women emancipator, an eminent and erudite scholar great humanitarian and chief architect of Indian constitution. He visited North Karnataka several times; every visit of him gave great inspiration of change and development to the marginalised groups, weaker sections, and downtrodden communities. He motive the people to overcome numerous social and financial obstacles and to get educate and aware about their rights. Dr. Ambedkar was icon of awareness of the oppressed and depressed classes; he was unquestionably the first leader of emerging India<sup>1</sup>. He was mouth piece of marginalised sections, until his last breath he did consistent effort for the welfare of downtrodden communities of India, where the welfare of new India or Prabuddha Bharat was lying. Further his visit to the Vijayapur district of Karnataka brought immersive changes in the life of followers as well as in general community<sup>2</sup>.

Dayanand Mane, states that Dr Ambedkar joined in to public life by the year 1918 and keep engaging himself in social movements with the support of legal aspects of British India, as well as Mahatma Gandhiji joined in to Indian independent movement by the year 19<sup>3</sup>. Luckiest part of the Vijayapur district was both the national leaders visited this region with the gap of just 4 years, days goes long back as Gandhiji visited in 1933 and Dr Ambedkar visits Vijayapur in 1937. This is a privilege attribute certificate and historical movement for both the leaders to spread and cultivated their views of equalitarian society in

this area. Considerable implications have been found as a result of their visit, also Dr Ambedkars visit creates spark in life of marginalised sections of the society and Dr. Ambedkar era began in Vijayapur<sup>4</sup>.

### Methodology

**Objectives:** i. To know about Dr Ambedkars Social Movements in Vijayapur District. ii. To Know the Primitive followers of Dr Ambedkars. iii. To explore the implications of Dr Ambedkar's Visit to Vijayapur district.

**Research Design:** The study was conducted by secondary sources of existing literature and field work through descriptive and explorative research design. Descriptive method was taken in to the consideration to examine deeply. Explorative design helps to visit and discussion with the various places and personalities of Vijayapur, who were connected with the Dr. Ambedkar visit to Vijayapur as well as followers of him.

**Dr Ambedkars visit to Vijayapur:** First time in history, Dr. Ambedkars Visits to Vijayapur begin on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1937, at 10am. He came all the way from Mumbai by train. Thousands of followers evident of his arrival to Vijayapur, Mr. Somanagouda, Mr Andanappa Angadi, and Mr. Goura Guruji garland Dr. Ambedkar and he was guarded up to Inspection Bungalow (IB) and court by thousands of followers<sup>5</sup>.

Dr. Ambedkar's visit to the Vijayapur (formerly known as Bijapur) is a historical event. Prime intention to visit was to attend court matter of Mr. Somanagouda of Bilagi, who was

charged with the criminal case of killing innocent people. Basically case was looking after by Mr. Andanappa Angadi Local lawyer of Mr. Somanagouda, but case was very tough to handle as majority of evidences were against the client of Mr Andanappa Angadi. Great lawyer of those days barrister Mr.Nariman was also denied to handle the case as it was so poor in the part of Mr. Somanagouda. Finally Mr. Andanappa Approaches Dr Ambedkar regarding the case: after a whole day study of case Dr. Ambedkar accept the case to argue at Vijayapur court. In fact Mr. Somanagouda was innocent; he was trapped in case by his opponent s of village. Mr Andanappa Angadi convinced Dr. Ambedkar to look after case, as Andanappa was close to him.

Barrister Dr. Ambedkar begins with his true and scientific argument in favour of his client. 90 minutes of his argument changes the scene of court and future of his client, Mr.Somanagouda released by court declaring as an innocent.

## Social Reform Movements

**Vijayapur District Harizan Parishad:** After court matters first meeting with the Dr. Ambedkar was scheduled with the Mr. Andanappa Angadi Mr. Revappa Kale connected with the set up agenda of District Harizan Parishad which was schedule on 31 May 1937 at Vijayapur. Mr. B H Varale, Mr. Aidale (MLC) Revappa Kale and Goura Guruji took initiation in organising the programme. Propaganda related with the Parishad done with the all the towns and villages of Vijayapur district as well as some parts of Belagavi and Sollarup Districts. Banners' with the Dr. Ambedkar's photo motivate public a lot to attend the programme.

The charming personality of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar created magic among the all the followers. Thousands of people were attended the programme; speech was in Marathi and it was translated in the Kannada by Mr. B H. Varale, main features of his speech was: i. Issues of downtrodden community, ii. History of practice of untouchability, iii. Inhuman practice of Hindu religion, iv. His fight against Dalit discrimination, v. Need of Socio-political fight for the betterments of downtrodden community, vi. Effects of Poona pact and need and importance of reservation etc.

Two hours constituent speech (5pm to 7pm) was comprising full of awareness regarding the rights of Dalits, Motivation to stop practice of Devadasi and related superstitious; guidance to lead dignified life with education, self hygiene and organization. Function brought considerable changes in the mindset of gathering, provoked them to fight against the social ills and practice of untouchability. Dalits started enrol their children's to schools. He becomes ray of hope of Dalits. Only one visit of him brought great change and development in the region, today also this area known for qualified Dalits with the influence of Dr. Ambedkar visit. Next day of the meeting Dr. Ambedkar visits to the various historical places of the Vijayapur town.

After visits he praise the secular mind set of the people of the Vijayapur and also art and architecture of the Adilshahi's<sup>6</sup>.

## Followers of Dr. Ambedkar in Vijayapur

There were huge group of people, who aware great followers of Dr. Ambedkar. Folk literature and songs evident the work and followers of him in Vijayapur. Gouraguruji was the greatest follower of Dr.Ambedkar; also he was considered the first Dalit poet of the region. Gouraguruji aware the community regarding social ills like practice of Devadasi, untouchability against dalit and slaughter. He uses to organise the people and conducts public meetings to create awareness about rights of dalits and to spread the Dr. Ambedkar's view regarding built India socially strong. He belongs Bijjaragi village and served as a primary school teacher.

Gouraguruji was inspired lot with the tabloid started by Dr. Ambedkar he regularly refers the Mook Nayak, Bahishkrata Bharat and Janata . He too spread Ambedkar views and philosophy among downtrodden communities. He inspired and supported people to organise Ambedkars birthday on April 14, also conducted seminar on this occasion along with the many school teachers and dalit community members of Bijjaragi village<sup>7</sup>.

Allappa Avadi was also one of the prominent followers of Dr. Ambedkar, he too belongs Bijjaragi village and he replace the Buddha Statute with the goddesses Durga Statue in Bijjaragi and spread the Buddhist philosophy among community members, he uses to organise Kannada Bhajan (kind of orchestra) on Buddha and Ambedkar.

Many personalities from Bijjaragi village like Gouraguruji, Allappa Avadi, Ramachandra Avadi, Bhimanna Jolli, Gurappa Kyatanavar S L. Gonasagi were the greatest followers of Ambedkar also from Vijayapur town L S. Mukyal, L K.Sandimani, Lakkappa Toravi, L K. Chinchalakar, L R. Nayak Chandrashekar Hosamani of Shivanagi Village and Havinal Shivappa from Indi block were the prominent followers of Dr.Ambedkar. Bijjaragi village has given birth to many social reformers and followers of Ambedkar, now also village known for progressive activities and dalit community with the good education and professionals in both public and private sector.

## Implications

Major implications of Dr.Ambedkar visit to Vijayapur: i. Dalit s got awareness about their rights, ii. Dalits got tenant land ownership, iii. Self respect and self reliant life started by the downtrodden communities, iv. Dalits converted to Buddhism in huge number, v. Buddhist philosophy came in to practice in the life of Dalits, vi. People started to enrol their children's to school, vii. Dalit community came out the impression of subordinate mind set and inferiority complex, viii. Devadasi system started to lose its entity. ix. Impression of practice of

baseless religious views reduced. x. Community slowly started come away from superstitions. xi. Community started to organise for rights of their members. xii. Literacy rate increased, and got job awareness in public sector. xiii. People develop self dignity and confidence. xiv. Political awareness increased in downtrodden community. xv. Community given more concentration on quality of life<sup>8</sup>.

## Conclusion

Dr. Ambedkar visit to Vijayapur resulted in to numerous developments in the life of dalits. His vision and mission like, demand for separate electorate, removal of untouchability, Devadasi cult, ill practices, and concentration on education, organising dalits, and importance to the health hygiene and sanitation got greater acceleration. He stated that higher the education and economic status is the basic tool to come forward and political power is ultimate for the welfare of minorities and Dalits.

People from Vijayapur town, felt blessed during his visits to various part of it, and same tradition been continued of blessings of him, as many Dalits now, highly qualified and acquired good position in society, politics and in public services<sup>9</sup>. Followers of Dr. Ambedkars speeded up the thoughts of him in all the nearby villages of Vijayapur; Ambedkars views on reservation, history of untouchability, need and importance of reservation, impact of poona pact, political and economic discrimination against dalits got acceleration to analyse the reality of set up of the social stratification. Followers played vital role in spreading up Dr. Ambedkars views, there were thousands of unidentified followers, therefore serious research has to be done in this regard.

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