

The Economic Thoughts of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar with Respect to Agriculture Sector

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Abstract

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, one of the multidimensional personalities having great noteworthy contribution in economics. He has its great contribution in agriculture and land reforms in India. Presently his ideologies were very useful in collective farming and land revenue. He was critique of traditional definition of collective land holding and redefined that economic land holding is not depend up on the size of land holding but proportion of factor inputs. Small size of holding is the cause of low production therefore consolidation of land reform must be undertaken. He was always in favor of collective and corporative farming in India. So his thought on agriculture development throughout world, especially in India has great relevance.

Keywords: Ideology, land reforms, land holding, collective farming, Agriculture development.

Introduction

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was the great architect of the constitution of India. He was one of the great personalities, who made dynamic change in the society. He was also a custodian of social justice and a champion of socialism and state planning Thought. Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar analyzed various social and political problems the thoughts were based on economic dimension. He published three books "The Problem of Rupee", provincial decentralization of imperial finance in British India and East India company administration economic policy. Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar studied economic issue like land reforms, small holding and their remedies, problem of Indian currency, provincial finance and planning.

Present time of globalization agriculture growth rates in not also only stagnant but also indicates continuous declining trends. The government has concentrated only on the technical problems and thus ignored institutional. The sub division, land reform and size distribution of ownership holding is the main obstacle in development of agriculture sector.

This calls a deep study to accelerate the growth rate of agriculture sector. So India needs to make appropriate change in this agricultural plan. While land reform. Such plan one might find Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar thoughts on agriculture. This paper analyses Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar thoughts on agriculture and current situation in India. The importance of his thoughts is that they are still applicable to India. The productivity of Indian agriculture sector is very low compared to many developed countries and there is need to take measures on the basis of Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar economic thoughts.

Objectives of the Paper:

- 1) To study the relevance of agriculture thoughts of Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
- 2) To compare Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar thoughts with current Indian agricultural sector.

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Thoughts on Agricultural Sector:

(i) Land Holding :

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was the first Indian economist to examine the problem of sub-division and fragmentation of agricultural land holdings and formulate a very scientific definition of an economic holding. Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar opined that small size of land holding is one the causes of production. Therefore should be consolidation of land holding. The traditional definition of an economic holding was presented as "a chance of producing sufficient to keep himself and his family in reasonable comfort after paying his necessary expenses".

It cannot be the language of economics to say that a large holding is economic while a small holding is uneconomic. It is the right or wrong proportion on others factors of production to a unit of land that renders the latter economic or uneconomic. A small term may be economic or uneconomic because economic does not depend upon the size of land but upon the appropriate proportion among all factors including land.

Tabal No 1 Area Operated Operational Holding

Type of Holding	1970-71	%	1980-81	%	1990-91	%	1995-96	%	2000-01	%
Marginal	14.56	8.98	19.74	12.05	24.89	15.04	28.152	17.21	29.82	18.62
Small	19.26	11.89	23.17	14.14	28.82	17.42	30.72	18.81	32.14	20.16
Semi Median	30.00	18.50	34.65	21.15	38.37	23.19	38.95	23.84	38.19	23.88
Large	50.56	30.88	37.71	23.02	28.65	17.31	24.16	14.79	21.07	13.17
Total	162.14	100	163.80	100	165.48	100	163.35	100	159.94	100

Source: agriculture census 2000-01

Table No. 02 Average Size of Holding in India

Years	Average Size of holding
1970-71	2.30
1976-77	2.00
1980-81	1.84
1990-91	1.57
1995-96	1.41
2000-01	1.32
2012-13	1.16

Source: Agriculture census in India 2010-11

From the table 02 it is clear that after independence the average size of holding has continuously declining trend. The main reason for decline is burden of population on land, defective law of inheritance, the decay of cottage industries etc. 1970-71.

India being a second populated country in world facing many problems related with each sector of economy, as in agriculture we are facing low productivity rate and high dependency ratio without any technical improvement, what lies behind this cause are backed by number of factors, one of them is fragmented land with low share of holding, so there is urgent need to introduce corporative and collective farming throughout the country based on Dr. Ambedker thought who was against this fragmented holding system. As our table reveals that we have increased marginal share holding of 8.98 percent in 1971 to 18.72 percent in 2000 and large holding 30.88 percent to 13.17 percent in same years which indicated the large share holding in India decreases year after year having related pace of decreasing also in semi median and median type of holding. Similarly our table number 2 also indicates that average size of holding in India during 1970-71 was 2.30 and now the average size of holding comes down to 1.16 in 2012-13. Analytically we can say the marginal share of agriculture holding is increasing in an increased rate, Dr Ambedker was against this low share holding and suggests there is an urgent need for reform in agriculture sector included with corporative farming and formulation of corporative societies for the development of our agriculture sector with high productive rate and low factor inputs. That will full the dream of our Dr. Ambedker .

(ii) State Socialism and Agriculture:

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar propounds the concept of state socialism. This concept envisages the collective farming. With abolition of intermediaries, the state must be the owner of land. The state should distribute these lands to the farms. Farmer should cultivate the farm collectively. The state should supply essential capital to the agricultural sector and the obtained income should be distributed among the farmers. It will lead to solve the problem of agriculture labours.

(iii) Land Revenue:

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar criticized the land revenue of British government. According to him, land revenue system was in against of the interests of poor people of India. Further no justice or equality was there in tax policy. He said that, land revenue was highly oppressive. Bharat Ratan Ambedkar emphasized the point that it was unjust to assess the land point that it was unjust to assess the land revenue on the income. The rate of assessment did not depend on the capacity to pay the tax. The taxable capacity was enhanced with the growth in the income.

After independence the government has continued the existing land revenue system in the country. Some states have adopted agricultural income tax, but yet not covered all other states in the country. Agricultural sector may be one of important tax base of the country. It must be covered unified system of taxation of agriculture and non agriculture sector.

Conclusion

Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was a strong advocate of land reforms and of a prominent role for the state in economic development. He recognised the inequities in a unfettered capitalist economy. Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar views on land holding and land revenue system and agricultural sector holding and land revenue system and agricultural sector to present time. The government must be adopted co-operative agriculture

and collective farming. It may be concluded that Bharat Ratan Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's thoughts on agriculture are more useful even time.

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