

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's thoughts on linguistic states of India

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Abstract

Language is playing crucial role in the development of Human beings. With help of language, man can express his emotions, his feelings and his needs very effectively. In India several languages are speaks. Languages are consults with tradition, law and custom. After the independent of India, there was big question in front of India that how to run the administration of India with multilingual culture of various state. During the British rule India was divided into several provinces for the better administration. That time British administrator never faced the problem of language to run the administration in India because they used English as the language of Administration. In this paper my intention is that how Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had been played an very important role to split the Indian states on the base of Language? How he has guided to the Dhar commission for the formation of state on the base of Language. Not only that he had also mention the advantages and disadvantages of the formation of State on the base of Language. While formulation states on the base of language what kind of policy has to be adopted by the state and center that was guided by Dr. B. R Ambedkar. While the States split on the base of language he had given importance to the national unity. While advocating the states on the base of language he had taken sufficient care that State should not be isolated due the character of one language one state. To establishment of unity among states and even between states and central government he advocated that every state should accepted their official language as the language of Central Government.

Keywords: multilingual state- various languages in same state, LPC- Linguistic provincial commission, SRC- State Reorganization Commission

1. Introduction

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had versatile personality. He was Anthropologist, Socialist, Economist and true Nationalist. He was much aware about the social structure of India. He was also aware about how India was divided herself in different culture, religion and Language. There was big challenge in front of India to remain with unity though there was a diversity among Indians in terms of language, religion, geographical condition and culture. During British rule, for the administration purpose, India was divided into several provinces, where the diversity of India had been not consider. But after independent of India it was big task in front of India to run the administration with all these diversity. So here, I want to present thorough my research article that how Dr. B. R. Ambedkar played a significant role in the formation States on the Linguistic base.

2. Background of formation of state on the base of language

In the year of 1920 Indian national congress already decided that Indian state will be form on the base of language after it's independent. But after independent Congress-led Government understood the risk of formation of state only on the base of language. According to them it would be risky for the national unity of India. Therefore to find out the solution of this problem, on 17th June, 1948, Ranjendra Prasad, the president of the Constituent Assembly, set up the Linguistic Province Commission (which also called aka Dar Commission) to whether the states should be reorganized on linguistic basis or not. In this committee included S. K. Dar who was retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court, J. N. Lal who was lawyer and one another Panna Lall who was retired Indian Civil Service officer. On 14th October, 1948, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar submitted a Memorandum to the Dar Commission, supporting

the formation of linguistic provinces, specifically the formation of the Marathi- majority Maharashtra state with Bombay as its capital. To maintain the national unity he further suggested that, the official language of every province (state) should be the official language of the Central Government ^[1]. Here he further mentioned the advantages as well as disadvantages of this Memorandum. We have no other best alternative to accept division of Indian state on the base of language. In this Memorandum he had also given the solutions to resolve the disadvantages or the remedies of that proposal.

3. British Rule and linguistic State

Before independents of India, there was a rule of British Government. Near about 150 years they ruled on India. British government emphasized stable administration and to maintain the law and order rather than catering to the cultural carving of people in multi- lingual areas. But it is quiet true that towards the end of their administration they did create Bengal, Bihar and Orissa as linguistic States before they left ^[2]. Therefore we can say that process of creating states on the base of language was already started in India during the period of British rule only.

4. Pillars of Nationalism

Very strongly Dr. B. R. Ambedkar advocated that one language, one way of life and one religion are the pillars of nationalism. He had given importance to the unity of Indians rather than unification of provinces. The state which is on the base of one language and culture gets the full scope for her development. It would be very easy to run the administration of such states. Democracy can run smoothly in such States, where the States find the homogeneous culture and language. While recommendation this he also warn that the language of

each provinces would not be its official language. Otherwise the use of provincial languages as official languages would be lead provincial culture to be isolated, crystallized, Coagulate. This kind of permission to the states as like the permission granted to them as separate nations. He further advocated that Linguistic provinces would be work democracy better than it would work in mixed provinces. There could be a strong possibility of creation hostility among the different heterogeneous nature of language in the same state. He addressed that speaking the common language by all states helpful to integrated the Indian states. For that every state must have the speaking knowledge of Hindi. He stressed the importance of Devanagari script and said, "if the language be printed in the Devanagari script then we will love other languages ^[3].

Here, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, supported that state must be reorganized on the basis of language. According to him, because of homogeneous language and social culture of that particular state, that state can able to give the big scope for the protection of her own language and culture. Such state can run smoothly Legislative, Executive and Administrative functions in that particular state. India is heterogeneous in terms of culture and language therefore it is very difficult to run the Legislative, Executive and Administrative functions in one hand. So there was two option in front of India to accept the mixed province policy or Linguistic province policy. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar studied both and advocated that there is advantages and disadvantages in both. But then also he advocated that state must be created on the base of Uniform language.

5. Disadvantages from Linguistic Provinces

1. Linguistic Provinces will result in creating as many nations as there are groups with pride in their race, language and literature. It quite possible that these Provinces keep themselves isolated. These provinces may develop the mentality of political subordination. In such kind of situation Central government could run her administration smoothly. Every state or province should supposed that she is the part of nation, she herself in not separate from nation.
2. To the creation of Linguistic Provinces would be fatal to the maintenance of the necessary administration relation between the centre and the Provinces. If such provinces adopts its own language as its official language the Central government will have to correspond in as many official languages as there are Linguistic provinces. This is very difficult task for the central government.

6. Advantages from Linguistic Provinces

1. The main advantage of the scheme of linguistic Provinces which appeals to him quite strongly is that Linguistic Provinces would make democracy work better than it would be in mixed Provinces. A Linguistic Province produces what democracy needs, social homogeneity. Now homogeneity depends upon their having a belief in a common origin in the possession of a common language and literature, in their pride in a common historic tradition, community of social, customs, etc. is a proposition which no student of sociology can dispute. He further said that history shows that democracy can't work in a state where the population is not homogeneous.

2. A state which homogeneous in its population can work for the true ends of democracy, for there are no artificial barriers or social antipathies which lead to the misuse of political power ^[4].

After the independent, there was a big problem in front of India about who to reorganize the Indian states. India has a diversity in terms of language, culture and even geographical condition. To resolve this problem Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had been played a very important role. He had submitted the memorandum in which he mention that how to reorganized the Indian state with maintain the sovereignty to all the Indian states without any harm to the National unity. He recommended that Indian states must be reorganized on the base of language on one main condition that all states must follow the official language which would be the official language of the central Government. He further recommended that Hindi should be one language, because it would help to strengthening national feelings. Hindi would be definitely helpful to maintain the emotional harmony or national integration.

7. Solution to stop the Fragmentation of Indian states on the base of Language

But in that nature if we are making the states according to the language then there would have been created so many states in India. This kind of situation will be harmful for the national unity of India. Therefore it was necessary to find out other alternative which could keep the multi-lingual provinces as they are, and remove the feelings and the lots of blemishes that arise therefrom and only in excusable cases resort to the creation of linguistic State. To find out the answer of that crucial question he had given sufficient attention and he had given three suggestion to the LPC. These suggestions are as follows:-

1. Multi-lingual States Governor must get the special powers to protect the minorities (on the base of language, religion and race)
2. All the states where there are multi-lingual people central government should established law, committees of members belonging to different linguistic sections which would have the right to hear and the right to ask the Ministry whether they are doing justice to their problems or not.
3. Minority people of the Multi-lingual state should have right to set aside any act of injustice that might have been done any one section ^[5].

These three solutions had given by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar to keep all the Indian states as they were. At the initial stage Dr. B. R. Ambedkar suggested that State should be separated on the base of one language. But all the language of Indian people could not get their separate states. So there would be a need to remain the other states in multi-lingual condition.

8. Natural Resources are important then Culture and Language

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar supports to establishment of states on the base of language but at same time he warns that same way we cannot create so many states on the base of language only. Because States which created on the base of language has got a culture which has got language and which has got separate feelings and an entity. Yet it is so small that it cannot find that means of carrying on its administration. People do not live on

culture and language. People live on resources that they possess ^[6]. So he advise that do not consider only the language and culture while creating the states of India. But it is to be see that what kind of resources age available for that state this thing must be consider while creating the new states.

9. Warning of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar while the formation Linguistic states

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar advocated that a linguistic States with its regional language as its official language may easily develop into an independent nationality. The road between an independent nationality and Independent State is very narrow. If this happens, India will cease to be modern India we have and will become the medieval India consisting of variety of States including in rivalry and warfare ^[7].

Though Dr. B. R. Ambedkar advocated the formation of Indian States on the base of language but at the same time he warned that there is very narrow road between the independent of States and independent of Nation so that must be take into consideration and accordingly care must be taken that all States of the Nation should be bounded strongly with unity of Nation. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar submitted his Memorandum 'Maharashtra as Linguistic Province' to the Dar Commission. He propounds (put forward an idea, theory for consideration the principle that the linguistic States should not be base on language but on the homogeneity of the people based on the tradition, common origin, community of social customs etc. ^[8].

10. One citizenship for the all Indians

To maintain the national unity Single citizens has granted to the Indian people in the constitution of India. State citizenship has not granted. Any person from any state, can live in any state of India and he will get the same nationality as Indian. Though these states are framed on the base of homogeneity as culture, language then also Single citizenship helped to maintain the national unity among these States ^[9]. This kind of measure helped to maintain the co-operation between the States and Central government.

11. Emergency Provisions and National unity

The constitution provides two sets of safety valves in order to maintain national unity and security. 1st is the president rule in the event of failure of Constitutional machinery in the State and 2nd by proclamation of emergency due to national cries on account of war, external aggression and internal disturbances. Dr. Ambedkar justified Center's interference in the sphere of State even during normal situation because of its duty to protect the states if there is external aggression or internal commotion ^[10].

12. Conclusion

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar presented memorandum to the linguistic provincial commission in which he advocated that one language one state would be better for the administration for the state and even for central government also. Linguistic States would make democracy work better than it would be mixed states. A Linguistic States could maintain the better democracy because of social homogeneity. Though he advocated that State should be formulated on the base of language but at the same time he mentioned that there is a narrow road between the independent of States and independent of Nation. So while split these States on the base

of language sufficient care must have been taken. To check the political insubordination of these states, impose the official language on every States. But at the same time these States must get freedom to live their culture with their State language. Indian constitution had given the single citizen ship which do not discriminate the person in State and in Central Government. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar advocated that racial and cultural tension within the state we can able to remove by accepting the States on the base of language.

13. References

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