

# Values Enshrined in Our Constitution: Their Educational Implications in the Emerging Indian Society

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*“We have to build the noble mansion of free India where ‘ALL’ her children may dwell”, and this mansion needs to be built by its dwellers, all of them, and all of us, and only then will we be united and free and equal in the true sense.”*

-----Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru

## **Abstract**

*The Constitution is an essential document for any free nation to determine her social philosophy in terms of visionary goal that provides guidance and direction to the functioning of the State to protect the rights and interests of her people, and to work for their welfare in all spheres of life. Similarly, it is also indicated how the citizens should conduct themselves and be responsible to the government. So, the present study was conducted to realize the basic ideals and values embedded in our Constitution and to study the educational significance of those values in the Constitution. The study has followed the secondary sources of data including the internet; and analytical treatment has been given to the same. The Preamble to the Constitution of India focuses the basic values like democracy, socialism and secularism along with the inherent ones such as justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. Each of the values has tremendous educational significance for the people of India. The achievement of these values must help us establish a harmonized Indian Nation which was the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.*

**Key Words:** Constitution, values, democracy, socialism, secularism, educational, harmonized.

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## **Introduction**

The Constitution is an essential document for any free nation to determine her social philosophy in terms of visionary goal that provides guidance and direction to the functioning of the State to protect the rights and interests of her people, and to work for their welfare in all spheres of life. Similarly, it is also indicated how the citizens should conduct themselves and be responsible to the government. So, it is more significant to realize the basic ideals and values embedded in our Constitution. The Constitution of India begins with a Preamble. The Preamble, which comes as an introduction, is an important part of the Constitution as it delineates the ideas and ideals of the people of India. In other words, it lays down her own social philosophy as a visionary document. It serves many useful purposes. It declares not only the source and time of

document but also the conditions prevailing at the time formulating the document, the intent and the purpose of the document and the underlying policy of the same.

### Related Literature

**Smith (1994)** delves deep into the various aspects of division found in the caste system like food, gods, time, animals, and even seasons. As per the description in the book, everything in the universe is classified from an Indian's point of view in relation to the Hindu religion. It also describes the origins of the caste system. The book describes how things were "in the beginning" and how this relates to why things are the way they are now. The time of beginning is considered the "time of perfection." Smith explains the "varnas or classes that comprise Indian society, as well as realms in the natural, supernatural, and ritual worlds, were supposedly created in the beginning, often by the procreative act of the creator god."

**Velassery (2005)** in his book explains in detail the of the caste system ideology and connects it with the concepts of religion and human rights. He then discusses the Indian perspective of the caste system and looks at "the issue of Human Rights as a contemporary mode of the ancient metaphysical wisdom built of reflection upon what it means to be Dharma and the ways of existing according to Dharma." He expresses the importance of this Dharma to the Indians, and how it contributes to wide acceptance of the caste system in India.

**Thapliyal (2016)** To create awareness about the constitutional values and to ascertain the views of student teachers regarding the achievement made in respect of each of the values /objectives in the present context in India. The tool stressed 9 constitutional values like Social & Economic justice, Liberty of status and opportunity , Equality of status and opportunity, Unity and integrity of the nation, Abolition of untouchability, International peace & security, Universal adult franchise, Sovereignty with the people of India, Independence of Judiciary. High achievement was found in abolition of untouchability and ensuring adult franchise. Equality of status and opportunity, and social and economic justice show low achievement, while the rest of the values show moderate achievement.

### Objectives of the Study

The present study had the following objectives---

- (i) To know the essential national values enshrined in our constitution
- (ii) To study the educational significance of those values of the Constitution.

## Methodology of the Study

The author has based the secondary sources of data for the present study and has adopted the analytical method of study for the treatment of the same.

## The Preamble to the Constitution

The Preamble to the Constitution of India states, “We, the people of India having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **Sovereign, Socialistic, Secular, Democratic, Republic** and to secure all its citizens: **Justice**, social, economic and political; **Liberty**, of thought, expression belief, faith and worship; **Equality**, of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all; **Fraternity**, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; in our Constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution.” Thus our Constitution laid down that in the eyes of law everyone should have equal status, to no one justice be denied, everyone should have liberty of thought and expression, and to practice his own faith and belief, and the dignity of each individual should be ensured. This has much significance for education in the emerging Indian society. Every Indian should know the exact meaning of the words of the Preamble to the Constitution of India as a responsible citizen.

## Basic Values of the Constitution

The basic values enshrined in the Constitution are Democracy, Socialism, and Secularism which emphasize the following principles:-

- i. Democratic principles such as freedom, equality, tolerance, readiness to see the other’s point of view, willingness to give and take, ability to adjust in and work with the groups.
- ii. Socialist principles such as respect for and commitment to equality in status and opportunity, maximizing production and wealthy and equitable distribution of wealth: and
- iii. Secular principles such as respect for all religions, freedom of worship, and readiness to see and manage civic affairs without reference to religion.

## Implication of Democracy

**Aims of Education---**If education is concerned with the well-being of human beings, then education has to deal with the teaching of values. Only then our future generations will be able to create values for the good of any individual and for the welfare of the society. Those values are—development of democratic values, development of worthy interests, development of vocational efficiency, development of sound habits, development of thinking power, development of social outlook, development of harmonious personality, development of leadership, development of national and international feelings, and training for citizenship

enabling them to distinguish between propaganda and reality and developing human qualities among them.

**Curriculum of Education---** Curriculum in a democracy should maintain the following principles:--

- (i) Principle of relating contents to the needs and aspirations of the people of the society;
- (ii) Principle of diversification i.e. providing courses according to the aptitudes and interests of the students;
- (iii) Principle of vocational efficiency i.e. curriculum should create socially useful productive individuals;
- (iv) Principle of child-centred education i.e. maximum opportunities should be given to the child for active participation.
- (v) Principle of inclusive education.

**Strategies of Education---**The strategies that make education democratic are----provision of equal opportunities, and recognition of individual differences, universal and compulsory education, free education, provision of adult education, child-centred education, activity-based methods of teaching, importance of individual attention, and social activities.

**Discipline in Education---** Discipline in a democratic set up implies self-discipline and social discipline. Attempts are made to provide social situations which encourage the same. Students are provided opportunities to conduct some of their own affairs. Provision for participation in co-curricular activities is made so that they may work in groups.

**Administration in Education---** There should be a proper division of powers and responsibilities at various levels. 'Decentralization' and 'human relationship' should be the watchwords of educational administration.

**Democratic Teacher Qualities---**A democratic teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide to his/her students. Sometimes he/she works as a social reformer. However, he/she possesses many qualities. He is devoted whole-heartedly to the ideals and values of democracy. Hence, he tries to impart the same faith to students through persuasion and affectionate rapport. He believes in the principle of individual difference. He allows every student to develop his individuality to the fullest extent according to his own interests, aptitudes and capacities. He tries to solicit maximum co-operation from the guardians, parents and other social agencies for the greatest possible development of students as dynamic and socially-oriented citizens of the future. He is fully conscious about his rights and duties towards the society. Hence, he tries to instill the same sense of responsibility in the students as to make them capable and intelligent citizens of tomorrow.

## Implication of Socialism

The impact of socialism on education is as follows:-

**Aims of Education---**Development of democratic outlook, development of socialist values, ensuring equality of educational opportunity to all, Expansion of educational opportunities to all areas, developing values like dignity of labour, non-violence, unselfishness, selfless service, etc., and giving practical shape to the Constitutional Directives---are some important aims of education in socialism.

**Curriculum of Education---** The contents should stress subject-matters like equality, socialistic movement, democratic duties of citizens, freedom, rights, non-violence, features of socialism, etc. Besides theoretical knowledge, practical experiences like discussion, debate, social service camp, social survey, introduction of ICT, etc.

**Strategies of Education---** Arrangement of equality in education, adequate scholarship, education of the backward section of the society, meeting the needs of slow learners, suitable legislation, etc. are some important means of education in socialism.

**Common School System---** The so-called public schools provide good education only to microscopic minority of rich children, which goes against the principles of socialism. The Kothari Commission advocated the abolition of this system and suggested common school system through the country. It will be open to all children irrespective of caste, creed, community, religion, economic conditions or social status.

**Teaching of Socialism---** A school can convey positive attitude and values regarding socialism to students through direct teaching of socialism, imbibing values into them through various activities, and teachers being models embodying the desired values and attitudes.

## Implication of Secularism

The following are the characteristics of education for secularism in India:-

**Aims of Education---** These seek to develop India as a rational, democratic, progressive and modern welfare state. The philosophy of humanism guides such educational objectives. In simpler sense, India's educational energies are directed towards the well-being of all the citizens of the country.

**Curriculum in Education---** Indian curriculum at all levels emphasize promotion of secular values. Lessons in textbooks are free from religious bigotry and prejudice. The good ideas are presented in appropriate forms. Co-curricular activities promote harmony through observation of different birth anniversaries and festivals.

**Teaching in Secularism---** Scientific rationalism is stressed through teaching ignoring superstitions and irrational things. Science is taught in a practical manner to influence the attitudes and values of the pupils. The spirit of science with emphasis on experimentation, inquiry, proof and critical thinking permeates the teaching of other subjects as well.

**Teacher in Secularism---** The teacher is expected to treat their students impartially. Equal respect is given to all students and to all religious groups. He should work as a living model for ideals whose objective attitude and unbiased manners influence the students.

### **Implication of Justice in Education**

Justice in the field of education implies that every individual must have equal opportunity of upliftment, development and progress through education. As a result of which he can understand the principles or ideals incorporated in our constitution. To provide justice in the field of education, the doors of the temples of learning should remain wide-open to all the citizens. No discrimination should be allowed to take place among students belonging to different states, society or different castes, creed, colour, etc. An education of rights and duties becomes important to ensure to fight for justice.

### **Implication of Liberty in Education**

An individual is entitled to criticize the government and the social evils. But his criticism should not go against the unity and solidarity of the country. The individual should be made free from external influence that prevents them from seeing and saying the truth. People should not ignore the national, social and even the personal interest of others. Education is the only instrument which can be used to guide the people for the scientific use of their right to speech. Similarly, it can guide people for the proper use of their other fundamental rights to belief, faith, worship, etc.

### **Implication of Equality in Education**

The Constitution of India provides equality of opportunity. This provision of the Constitution becomes meaningless, if we do not allow equality of opportunity in the field of education. It is imperative to provide adequate facilities to children to develop their abilities to the optimum. Despite individual differences, importance of environment is very important for educational growth. In the words of Education Commission, "One of the important social objectives of education is to equalize opportunity, enabling the backward or underprivileged classes and individuals to use education as a lever, for the improvement of their education."

### **Implication of Fraternity in Education**

This right assures the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation. All individuals of the country share the same nationality, and in that sense, all are brothers and sisters. There should not be any distinction of caste, colour, creed, language and gender in the development of

the individuals. Fraternity upholds cohesiveness among people. Students, teachers, parents, non-teaching staff—all should be bounded with love, sympathy, understanding and fellow-feeling. Therefore, education should be planned in such a way that it can assure our objective of achieving fraternity through ‘we’ morale and nationalistic spirit.

## Conclusion

Baba Saheb Ambedkar wanted to establish a harmonized Indian nation through the constitutional values, because he could realize that the lofty ideals of the Constitution would remain unfulfilled, if the inherent contradictions of the society are properly addressed. The constitutional goals give direction for such an advancement to create the society according to the social philosophy of the people. The Indian Constitution has built-in provisions related to education on the basis of those goals. These provisions implicitly or explicitly refer to the basic values enshrined in the Constitution. The educational provisions may be described in terms of emphasis on various such as those which emphasize democratic and socialistic values, equality and justice, secularism, fraternity and national unity. Exclusion of educational components of these different values of the society would have left with an incomplete image of such a society, as education is considered as the main vehicle for national development. The National Policy on Education-1986 has rightly remarked, “The Constitution embodies the principles on which the national system of education is conceived of.

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