

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Constitutional Morality and the Vision of a Developed India

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Abstract:

India is moving toward a big goal — to become a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by the year 2047. This means building a country that is fair, strong, and moral. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's ideas about the Constitution still guide India today. He wanted India to be a democracy built on justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity (brotherhood). He said that democracy is not only about elections or government. It must stand on moral and ethical values. Ambedkar warned against hero-worship, misuse of power, and social inequality. His message still helps India stay strong and fair.

This paper talks about Ambedkar's vision of constitutional morality — living by the spirit and values of the Constitution. It also connects his ideas with old Indian stories — like King Shibi in the Mahabharata, Lord Rama's respect for truth in the Ramayana, and the Rig Veda's message of unity. These show that India always valued truth, justice, and duty. To reach Viksit Bharat 2047, India must use Ambedkar's values in governance, education, and daily life.

Ambedkar's dream was to join India's ancient wisdom with modern democracy. His message is clear: only a nation that respects moral values can truly become strong and developed.

Introduction:

When India became free in 1947, it was not just a change in power. It was the start of a new life for the nation. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who helped write the Constitution, wanted India to be ruled not only by laws but also by moral values.

He said that democracy means more than voting. It is a way of living together with freedom, equality, and brotherhood.

As we plan for **Viksit Bharat@2047**, Ambedkar's ideas guide us. Development is not only about buildings or industries. It is also about honesty, justice, and fairness in society. Ambedkar believed that political democracy will fail if people do not follow moral and social democracy.

This paper explains Ambedkar's philosophy, connects it with old Indian moral stories, and shows how his ideas can help today's citizens live ethically.

Ambedkar's Idea of Constitutional Morality

Ambedkar said that **constitutional morality** means deep respect for the Constitution and its values.

He explained that people must learn to follow the spirit of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Obeying the law is not enough; we must act with moral sense.

Ambedkar said:

“Constitutional morality is not a natural feeling. It has to be taught and developed.”

This means people must learn to respect the rules and live with honesty. If citizens and leaders lose this moral discipline, even the best Constitution will fail.

Civilizational Roots of Moral Governance

India’s moral values are very old. Ancient stories teach us how rulers and people followed **dharma** (duty):

- In the Mahabharata, **King Shibi** gave his own flesh to save a dove — showing justice and sacrifice.
- In the Ramayana, **Lord Rama** went into exile to keep his father’s promise — showing truth and duty.
- In the Rig Veda, the **Sangathan Sukta** prays, “Let our minds and thoughts be united.”

Ambedkar respected these ideas but rejected the wrong parts like caste. He took the good moral values and made them modern through the Constitution.

Constitutional Morality as the Foundation of Development

Ambedkar said that real progress is not only about money. A country grows truly only when it grows morally.

Freedom and equality become meaningful only when there is fraternity — brotherhood and care for all.

The Supreme Court of India has also used Ambedkar’s idea of constitutional morality in cases like *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018) and *Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala* (2019). These judgments said that the Constitution must protect fairness and equality over social bias.

So, constitutional morality is India’s moral compass — it helps us use power with honesty and justice.

Moral Education and Nation-Building

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar believed that social change must come before political change. He said, “**The cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.**” According to him, education should not only give knowledge but also teach moral values and reasoning. Schools and colleges should include moral and civic lessons so that students learn honesty, equality, and respect for others.

He believed that when people understand justice, duty, and fairness from a young age, they grow into responsible citizens. Moral education helps in reducing corruption,

discrimination, and selfish behaviour. It builds character, discipline, and respect for law and fellow citizens. Ambedkar also emphasized that both teachers and parents have a big role in shaping the moral foundation of the next generation.

By connecting Ambedkar's ideas with everyday moral practice, India can build a society that is not only educated but also ethical. Such moral strength will help the nation become a strong, fair, and responsible democracy.

Constitutional Morality and Contemporary Governance

Ambedkar said that power must always stay within moral limits. He warned:

“Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic.”

This means India must keep learning democratic habits. Governments, courts, and citizens must all act fairly and truthfully. Corruption, hate, and misuse of power are moral failures, not just political ones.

Only when governance is fair and ethical can India become truly developed.

Civilizational Continuity: From Dharma to Constitutional Morality

From **dharma** in the epics to **constitutional morality** today, India's moral journey continues. Both teach duty, justice, and compassion.

Ambedkar modernized dharma by giving it a secular, equal meaning — justice for all. By 2047, India can become **Viksit Bharat** only when economic growth is guided by moral strength and respect for human dignity.

Challenges Ahead

India still faces moral challenges:

- Corruption and misuse of authority
- Social hatred and division
- Weak trust in institutions
- Education that ignores moral values

Ambedkar warned that without social and moral democracy, political democracy will fail. India must rebuild trust through law, education, and moral training.

Conclusion

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's vision is the light for India's path to **Viksit Bharat@2047**. His idea of **constitutional morality** makes the Constitution a living moral guide for all.

He joined India's ancient wisdom with modern democracy — creating a system where justice, equality, and moral duty work together.

Ambedkar said:

“We must make our political democracy a social democracy.”

India will be truly **Viksit** only when every citizen follows the Constitution not just in words but in moral spirit — with honesty, fairness, and fraternity.

