

Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedker's Statue Unveiled

BDVS Regional office Babigha

Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedker's statue was unveiled in the premise of Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti Regional Office at Barbigha in a solemn function organised on 3 May 2015 attended by a large number of community leaders, women, men, youth and children from a large number of neighbouring villages. The proposal for erecting a statue of Dr. Ambedkar was muted by the local community leaders with the hope that Dr. Ambedkar's statue facing the main road will be a lasting source of inspiration for the community, youth, and children in realizing their aspirations for greater equality, freedom, human dignity and socio-economic and political empowerment.



People had been working together to erect this statue for the last two years with the close guidance of Mr. Raj Kumar the previous In-charge of the office and Mr. Basant Kumar, the present In-charge of the office. The People of Barbigha are really inspired by the visionary ideals and leadership of Dr. Ambedkar not only for the Dalit but the nation as a whole. They consider him the tallest leaders of the country. He stood for human equality, freedom, dignity, and well being. This inspiration led us to decide on erecting a statue of Dr. Ambedkar in the premise of BDVS Barbigha regional as the Mission of BDVS is nothing but realizing the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar step by step and thus contributing to building a nation founded on justice, equality, freedom, democracy, fellowship and secularism.

In 2013 working committee were formed involving the local leaders who will lead different tasks related to erecting Dr. Ambedkar's statue such as community mobilization, fund raising, construction of the statue and the unveiling ceremony. The team tried to execute its plan and distributed the work among the members and within two years the work was completed. The statue was unveiled in the presence of hundreds of villages and community leaders on 3 May 2015.

The Ceremony of Unveiling of the Statue

The unveiling ceremony was well planned. Shoba Yatra (Procession) with colourful umbrellas with the message of Dr. Ambedkar, "Educate, Agitate, and Organise", with blue colour flags, with well decorated photos of Dr. Ambedkar mounted on a tractor, with decorated elephant and camel (elephant and camel) leading the procession is symbolic of gaiety and solemnity) and Music was enthralling and exciting. The rally which was participated by over five hundred people went through important areas of Barbigha Market and Mission Chowk. This was basically for encouraging dalit people and blowing warm energy to them. All together 600 people along with children and students had taken part in this rally. The rally was started from BDVS regional office to Shekhpora More via Barbigha Police Station. The rally was a moment of oneness of different dalit communities, and a moment of pride to realise their organisational strength and an expression of a determination to realise the dream and ideals of Dr. Ambedkar.



Inauguration

After the rally all the participants came to the meeting place to unveil the statue of Dr. Ambedkar. There were nearly 650 people along with many PRI members, School teachers, government officials, BDVS staffs, local leaders, women groups, youth groups, children and our well wishers irrespective of caste and religion. Fr. Anto Joseph, the director of BDVS solemnly unveiled the statue and garlanded Statue expressing profound respect for Dr. Ambedkar,



while the leaders accompanied the director to the podium and the people watched the ceremony with excitement and great exhilaration. The leaders, community/village representatives, and others paid tribute to Dr. Ambedkar by offering flowers.

Cultural Programme

The unveiling of the statue was followed by a public function which included cultural items performed by students, youth, and professional cultural team. Shri. Basant Kumar welcomed the gathering and explained the meaning of this day for the all and especially for the dalit communities in Barbigha. Girl students sang melodious welcome song to welcome the guests and the gathering. This was followed by another melodious awareness song by youth and an inaugural dance by the students.

A large number of community leaders, and thinkers reflected on different aspects of Dr. Ambedkar's life. 'Ambedkar's own life story is a monumental inspiration for every person in his life journey', opined most of the speakers. Many of the speakers dwelt on his contribution towards the evolution of the self understanding of the Idea of India defined by equality, justice, freedom, human dignity, unity and fellowship, democracy and secularism. All the speakers highlighted his unique contribution to oppressed classes in India, his clear and unambiguous opposition to caste hierarchy and ritual purity. He fought on all available forums without fear for the rights and dignity of the dalits and all the oppressed. Some speakers shared their own personal journey of liberation taking inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar. Some speakers also dwelt on the evolution of Ambedkar thought through political and other processes in the country. Many of the speakers stressed the importance of making Dr. Ambedkar and his vision of a society as the guiding principle of one's life. Some invited the gathering to promote Ambedkar thought as a guiding source of inspiration to continue the task of building a truly just, egalitarian, free, democratic, secular and prosperous India.



School Students



Village Youths



(Kapil's Music Team from Jhajha)

BDVS Director Speech

BDVS Director and Chief Guest of the function, Dr. Fr. Anto Joseph gave his speech and message in “**Magahi**” the local language. He had prepared an especially speech in Maghi because his perception was village people can better understand the message on Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in their local language. In his speech he particularly focused on education. According to him, the most important cotemporary challenge



of Dr. Ambedkar’s life and message for all and very especially for the dalits, the poor, and the excluded is: “Educate, Agitate, and Organise”. Determined and collective effort on this last message of Dr. Ambedkar would definitely transform the lives of the dalits, the poor, the excluded and all of us.

BDVS Director Speech in his own words... (English Version)

AMBEDKAR ‘S VISION DALIT EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION

Our country celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti on 14 April. Continuing the Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations, we are gathered today to pay our special respect to Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. In the presence of all of us who are gathered here, we will unveil the statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. Dear brothers and sisters, the unveiling of the Statute of Baba Saheb Ambedkar is an expression of rising collective consciousness and our determination to follow his path and inspiration to usher in his dream of a Just, free and egalitarian society in our country. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had exhorted us to have faith in our own strength. Today, taking inspiration from Baba Saheb Ambedkar, I call upon all of you to believe in your own strength; to believe in our collective consciousness and strength to realize the dream of Baba Saheb to usher in a society where everyone is respected, everyone realizes one’s self dignity, and where there is equality, freedom, and justice. I wish may the unveiling of the Statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the land of Barbiga is a symbol of our determination to realize his dream in our country.

On this great occasion, taking immense inspiration from Baba Saheb Ambedkar, I wish to speak to you dear brothers and sisters on his dream of quality and modern education for all. He once said, “Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of every one.” “The object of primary education is to see that every child that enters the portals of a primary school does leave it only at a stage when it becomes literate and continues to be literate throughout the rest of his life.” He had believed that education is most important means for the dalits to become socio-politically and economically powerful and self-dignified. Education is the path of liberation. This what he meant in one of his last words to us: educate, agitate and organize.

Educate, agitate and organize concept of Dr. Ambedkar has given meaningful message to the people in the mode of development. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in a class considered low and outcast. Dr. Ambedkar fought untiringly for the downtrodden. The man who suffered bitter humiliation became the first Minister for Law in free India, and shaped the country’s Constitution. He was strong-minded fighter, a deep scholar, human to the tips of his fingers. Educate, Agitate, Organize are three final words of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Baba Saheb Ambedkar had realized that education is so crucial for the socio-political and economic empowerment of the dalits. Empowerment is the simple process of increasing personal or political power so that individuals, families and communities can take action to improve their situations. He had realized that education is the important bases of power in the modern society. Therefore, education is both a source of power and also as an agency that empowers people. From the individual point of view, the empowerment is defined as building confidence, insight and understanding, and developing personal skills. For example, being able to analyze situations and communicate more effectively to others. Being empowered presupposes some level of common sense and emotional maturity and access to appropriate information and know how; it also implies someone who cares about others and is tolerant of other’s views and behaviour. From the view point of group or community, empowerment can be taken to involve building trust, co-operation and communication among the members.

There must be opportunities for people to meet and exchange views and opinions and ways of recording what is agreed and done; and there must be scope for having fun and celebrating achievement. Empowerment refers to increase in the spiritual, political, social, racial, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities.

Ambedkar insisted that to his Dalit people, 'Educate to organize and to Struggle' for their own betterment using whatever educational facilities. Ambedkar has been described as a philosopher, a patriot, scholar or a writer, the constitution maker, a social revolutionary, a humanistic thinker, or the socialist and he had also contributed a great deal to the cause of education. He mainly emphasized that the education as a vital force for individual development and social change. Ambedkar envisaged that, education was an instrument for the change of the lives of the dalits. He thought that education would enlighten his people and bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. Education plays an important role. It is an effective instrument of mass movement to safeguard life and liberty. Education could encourage the oppressed ones to fight and remove injustice and exploitation and pave ways for the free thinking. He recognized that, lack of education was the main cause for the backwardness of poor people. Educate, agitate and organize are three final words of Ambedkar. A singular role that Ambedkar played in the upliftment of the dalits in the early 20th century and the importance that he gave to modern education for their betterment deserves special emphasis. In conferences, lectures and also in meetings, Ambedkar encouraged dalit youth to acquire education in order to raise their social status and image. For Ambedkar, education was the main key to open the doors of light, vision and wisdom. He himself said, "Education is something which ought to be brought within the reach of every one. The object of primary education is to see that every child that enters the portals of a primary school does leave it only at a stage when it becomes literate continuous to be literate throughout the rest of his life." Ambedkar's ideas for the dalits was to raise their educational standards so that they may know their own condition, have aspirations and rise to the level of anyone in the country and be in the position to use political power as a means. This is best reflected in Ambedkar's famous slogan of Educate, Agitate and Organize.

Education does not simply mean to acquire knowledge and getting academic designation. Education must get through by the way of free mind and free thinking. It must motivate us to create a society that everyone respects every one, nobody is discriminated against, everyone is able to exercise his/her freedom. It must motivate us to consider everyone as equal, to respect and give equality to women.

The word 'agitate' does not mean that, to agitate physically; it is a mental revolution in its place. It does not mean to go out and start protesting violently on the streets, without getting educated. After getting educated, by understanding Babasaheb's thoughts and strategy the individual can start agitating mentally. Agitated mind, as Dr. Ambedkar presumed, would force educated people to form organizations and they would act to fix the problems. Many people, quite often, who profess Dr. Ambedkar, limit his slogan to these three points. But the actual message of Dr. Ambedkar lies in "have faith in your strength."

Educated and agitated minds will easily organize for a common mission. We must get ourselves educated and our thoughts agitate so that we can collectively organize. Agitated minds for a common mission will help them to unite and struggle for their common goal as one force. Only education can bring this change. Ambedkar had also given lot of emphasis on getting education. He had given prime importance to education. He further added that, "The backward classes have come to realize that after all education is the greatest material benefit for which they can fight. We may forego material benefits of civilization but we cannot forego our rights and opportunities to reap the benefits of the highest education fully. That is the importance of education. From this point of view he advised the backward classes to realize that without education their existence is not safe." In Ambedkar's idea on educate, agitate and organize Ambedkar's idea of giving education and equal opportunity to the people aims at removing the barriers in Indian caste system and development of backward caste as well as all marginalized communities. For the upliftment of the depressed classes he developed a programme of education as a part of the general manifesto of Indian Labor Party before the general elections of 1937. To stamp out the illiteracy, he emphasized the necessity of full and compulsory and liberal education. He emphasized that many pupils from depressed classes did not have money. To overcome the financial problem which is acting against their studies, he stressed the necessity of scholarships in educational institutions.

Ambedkar wanted the people to cultivate the values of freedom and equality among themselves; it is possible only through education. He regarded education as a means to reach the doors of light and perception to remove the regions of darkness and ignorance. Ambedkar emphasized on secular education for social emancipation. The basic theme of his philosophy of education is: inculcating the values of liberty, equality, fraternity, justice and moral character among the boys and girls of all shades. By the way of his educational philosophy, I shall view that by experiencing full freedom of education without the barriers of any caste, creed and race; it is the best way for the enlightenment of human beings from ignorance.

Dr. Ambedkar said, my final words of advice to you is "Educate, Agitate, Organize" have faith in yourself. With justice on our side, I do not see how we can lose our battle. The battle to me is a matter of joy. The battle is in the fullest sense spiritual. There is nothing material or social in it. For ours is a battle not for wealth or for power. It is a battle for freedom. It is a battle for reclamations of the human personality.

Dear brothers, sisters, youth and children, on this day when we are gathered to unveil in deep respect the statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, I invite you to be determined, to be confident, not to rest till our children get modern, and quality education that is available to the rich in this country. We can no longer neglect education, quality education. Education that can give us our dignity, respect, strength, power! Education that can enable us to usher in values of equality, justice, and freedom! Let us awake... Let us move ahead... Let us demand quality education... May Baba Saheb Ambedkar inspire us, our youth and our children!

We regret the sudden demise of Shri. Navrangi Ram in an accident on 23 May, 2015. The director and the entire BDVS parivar expresses our deep condolences to the bereaved family members. He was an ardent messenger of Dr. Ambedkar thought. He used every opportunity in our regional office to inspire the youth and women on the great ideals of Dr. Ambedkar. He was also an active member of various committees who worked to erect Dr. Ambedkar's statue in Barbiga. After his retirement as a school teacher, he devoted a great part of his time for the empowerment his brethren. We have lost a community leader, and a learned messenger of Dr. Ambedkar's message of human liberation. Our deep respect and prayers for him!

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अब हम तोहनी से अम्बेदकर जी के बारे में बात करे जा रहअली हैए। उनकर दलित लोग के शिक्षा ला का सोच हलअई अउर किस तरह से हम उ दिशा में आगे बढ़ सकलिया हए ताकि दलित शिक्षित अउर सशक्त बन सकें।

अपन देश 14 अप्रैल के अम्बेदकर जयंती मअनअलिकेए वही उत्सव के जारी रखते हुए हमनी सब यहाँ इकठा होलिये ताकि हम विशेष रूप से उनकर प्रति अपन श्रद्धा प्रकट करिये। आज हम सब भारत रत्न से सम्मानित बाबा साहेब भीमरा अम्बेदकर के मूर्ति के अनावरण ता एक जगह इकठा होलिये हए।

हमर प्यारे भाई अउर बहन यहाँ आवके अउर मूर्ति अनावरण के मकसद हमनी के सामूहिक चेतना के जगाना अउर हमनी के पक्का विश्वास की हम उनकर बताइल रास्ता पर चल कर इक आजाद समतामूलक समाज के निर्माण में सहायता करिये।

बाबा साहेब हमनी के प्रेरित करत ही कि हमनी के अपन शक्ति में विश्वास रखे के चाही अउर सब के साथ मिल कर एक सोच अउर एक राह पर चल कर उनकर सपना के पूरा करे के चाही। एक अइसन समाज के सपना जहाँ सब के आदर अउर ऊँच-नीच के भावना ना हो जहाँ सब बराबर हो अउर सब के आजादी अउर न्याय मिले। जहाँ सब के स्वाभिमान के रक्षा हो।

हमर यही इच्छा हइ कि बारबीघा के भूमि पर बाबा साहेब के मूर्ति के अनावरण हमनी के इरादा, हमनी के निश्चय के व्यक्त करे कि हमनी उनकर सपना के पूरा करबइ। आज के इस महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर बाबा साहेब से प्रेरणा लेते हुए हम उनकर गुणात्मक अउर आधुनिक शिक्षा के बारे में बात करे चाह हइ। उनकर कहना हलअइ कि शिक्षा अइसन होबे जे सब के पहुँच में हो। उ इक बार कहलथइल कि शिक्षा के मुख्य उद्देश्य अइसन होबे कि जे बच्चा एक बार प्राथमिक शिक्षा ला स्कूल के दलहजी पर कर जाइ उ तब तक ना छोड़ी जब तक उ पूरी तरह से साक्षर जा हा जाइ अउर अपन तमाम जिंदगी उसी तरह से शिक्षित बनल रहे।

उनकर अइसन विश्वास हलअइ कि दलित लोग के सामाजिक, राजनीतिक अउर आर्थिक उत्थान ला

शिक्षा एक अविनाशनी शक्ति हइ जे इन लोग में आत्म सम्मान के भी विकास करतअइ उनकर आँखिरी बोल जे हमनी से उ कहलथइ उ हलहइ शिक्षित हो, आन्दोलन करो अउर संगठित हो। बाबा साहेब के ई संदेश लोग के विकास ला काफी अर्थपूर्ण हइ। डाक्टर बी आर अम्बेदकर के जन्म इक बहुत ही निम्न अउर अछूत जाति में होलइ हल। बाबा साहेब अनवरत दलितन अउर पिछड़े लोग ला लड़ाई लड़लतही। उनका बहुत अपमान भी सहे परलइ लेकिन उ पीछे ना हटलथी। स्वतंत्र भारत के पहले विधि मंत्री बन के उ देश के संविधान के संरचना तैयार करलथी। दृढ़ निश्चय वाला व्यक्ति उ एक बहुत बड़ा विद्वान भी हलथइ। प्रशिक्षित हो, आन्दोलन अउर संगठनात्मककिया उनकर मूल मंत्र हलअइ।

बाबा साहेब अम्बेदकर के हमनी इक दार्शनिक, एक देश भक्त, एक लेखक, एक संविधान निर्माता, एक सामाजिक क्रांतिकारी, एक समाजवादी पर शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उनकर सबसे बड़ा योगदान हलहइ।

उनकर मन मे हलहइ कि शिक्षा सबसे महत्वपूर्ण शक्ति हइ जे व्यक्तित्व के विकास अउर समाज में परिवर्तन ता जरूरी हइ। बाबा साहब जानन हलथहइ कि दलित लोग के सशक्तिकरण ता शिक्षा सबसे जरूरी हइ। शिक्षा से उनकर मतलब केवल ज्ञान प्राप्त करके डिग्री पावे से ना हलहइ। बल्कि अइसन शिक्षा से हलहइ जेकरा से दलित लोग में हम के चेतना के विकास हो अउर हम शिक्षित हो कर संगठित प्रयास से अपन जीवन स्तर सुधार सकियअ। शिक्षा से हम लोग के प्रेरणा मिले ताकि हम खुले विचार और स्वतंत्र दिमाग से सब के भलाई अउर महिला लोग के विकास अउर उत्थान ला सोचे, उनलोग के आदर दियाये अउर समाज में बराबर के हिस्सेदार बनाये। आंदोलन से बाबा साहब के मतलब शारीरिक आंदोलन से ना हलहइ पर हमनी के विचार में क्रांति से हइर। सरकार पर जा कर लड़ाई झगड़ा या हिंसा से ना विचार में या मानसिक क्रांति हम सब के एकजुट करतइ अउन हम संगठित प्रयास से सब के विकास ला सोच बअइ।

शिक्षा से ही हम सब मिलकर सहयोग के द्वारा अपन सर्वमान्य सामुदायिक उद्देश्य के समझ पड़बअइ। अउर ई सब परिवर्तन केवल शिक्षा से अइतइ। उनकर कहना हलहअइ कि भौतिक सुख के प्राप्ति से ज्यादा जरूरी शिक्षित होना हइ तब ही जात-पात के बाधा के दूर करत जा सक हअइ। अउर हमरा अपन अधिकार अउर अवसर के लाभ उठा सक बअइ।

निम्न जाति के उत्थान ला 1937 में जेनरल एलेक्शन के पहले इंडियन लेबर पार्टी के मैनिफेस्टो में एडुकेशन से संबंधित एक अइसन योजना तैयार करलथहइ जेकरा में सब ला शिक्षा जरूरी अउर अनिवार्य हलहइ। उ जान हलथइ कि गरीब लड़कन पास पढ़ाई के पइसा ना रह हइ, अइ से स्कूलरशिप के जरूरत पर जोर देलथइ।

अम्बेदकर चाहलथइ कि लोग में समानता अउर स्वतंत्रता जइसन गुण विकसित हो जे कि शिक्षा के द्वारा ही संभव हो सकहइ। उनकर मन में होलहइ कि ज्ञान की रोशनी ही अज्ञानता के अंधकार दूर कर के इक समतामूलक समाज के रचना करतइ। जेकरा में सब के बराबर के हक, न्याय अउर शिक्षा प्राप्त होतअइ। हमर प्यारे भाई अउन बहन हम तोहनी सब के आमंत्रित करहइ कि पूरा विश्वास अउर निश्चय से मन में ठान लेवल जाये कि हमनी तब तक आराम ना करबइ जब तक हमनी के बच्चा सब के आधुनिक अउर गुणात्मक शिक्षा ना मिले लागे।

अइसन शिक्षा जे हमनी के आत्म सम्मान, आदर, ताकत अउर बल अउर अधिकार दे। अइसन शिक्षा जे अइसन भावना लाये, अइसन गुण जेकरा में समानता, न्याय अउर स्वतंत्रता हो।

चलअ उठअ आगे बढ़अ, चलअ अच्छा गुणात्मक शिक्षा के माँग रखिय। यही प्रार्थना हइ कि बाबा साहब हमनी के युवक लोग के अउर हमर लड़कन के प्रेरणा अउर शक्ति देलथइ।