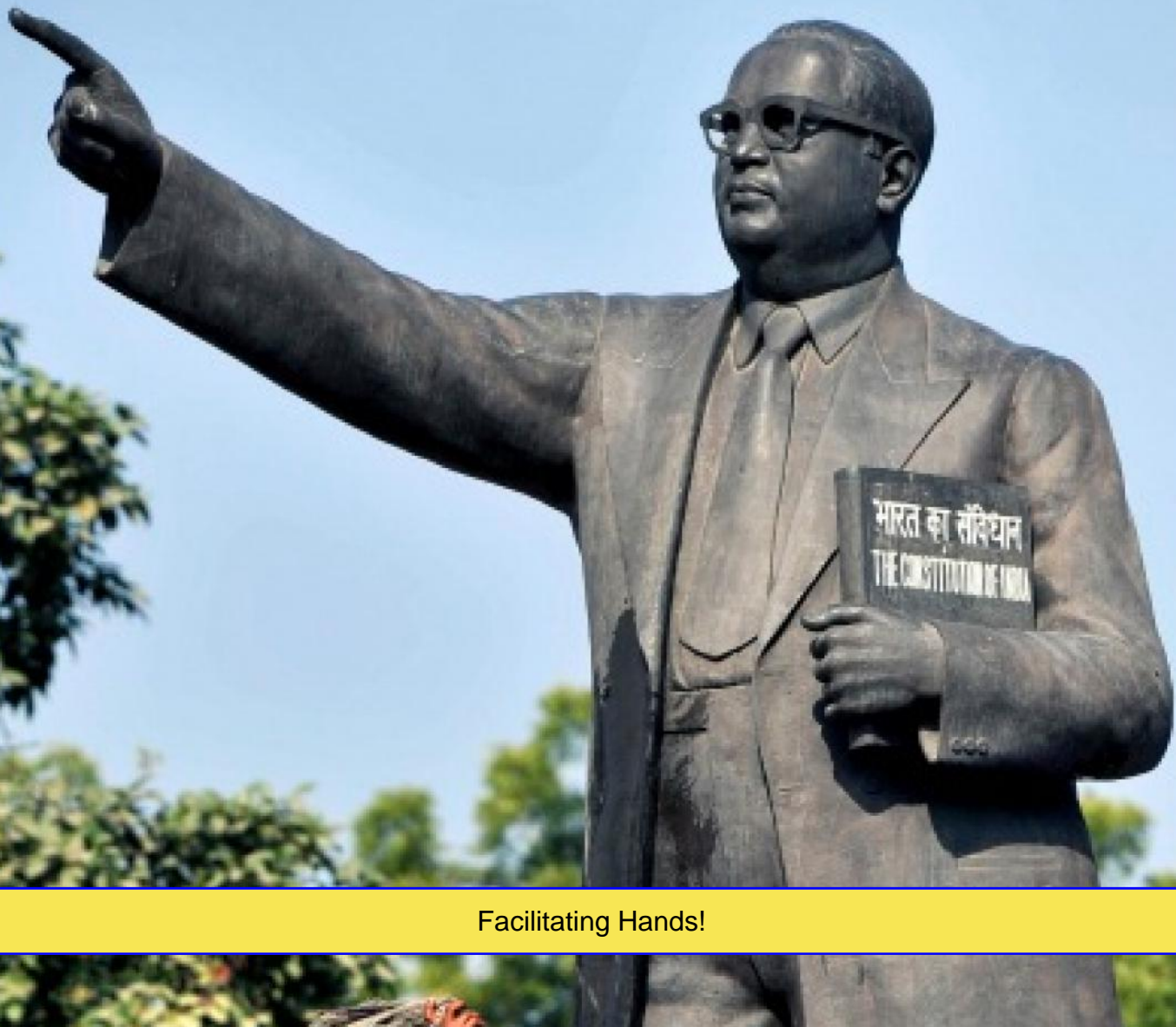


livelihoods

today and tomorrow

May 2016

BR Ambedkar



Facilitating Hands!

May Day!

Happy Mothers' Day!

Let us think about Rabindranath and his Gitanjali.

Let us think about Buddha.

India has been a longstanding idea. Since 1947, we saw it physically as a sovereign entity. It needed governing document, The Constitution of India, adopted by its people. The document was authored broadly by Bharat Ratna Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, as the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constituent Assembly. It started guiding us since 26 January 1950. BR Ambedkar went on to serve India as its Law Minister. After 50 years of his Mahanirvaana, he became more relevant today. He is considered the architect of Modern India. He is the friend, philosopher and guide to marginalized in the country (and the world) in general and SCs in particular. He became torch light and guiding star of the humanity in this world. In this context, 'livelihoods' is exploring the phenomenon 'BR Ambedkar'.

Please read Gail Omvedt's classic, 'Understanding Caste: From Buddha to Ambedkar and beyond'.

The e-links include VCA - 'Artisanal Fisheries'; subsector - 'Honey'; e-book - 'Dr. BR Ambedkar: The Maker of Modern India'; and v-book - 'JoharBastar - Self help groups paving the way to rural development'.

Supplements include Legendary Effort - Right to Education; and Kshetram - 'Deccan Plateau'. Livelihoods Management Notes are on 'Flagship Programs'.

With the faith and hope that you find this special issue useful, were main.

the 'livelihoods' team

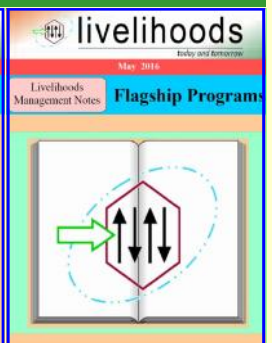
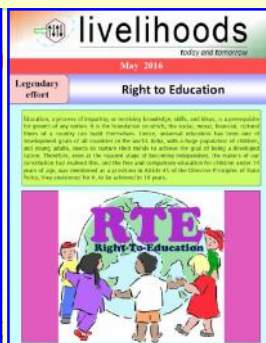
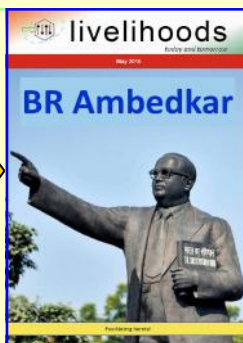
More than 125 million people in the world need humanitarian assistance. Through collective and coordinated action, aid organizations aim to bring urgent help to more than 87.6 million of the most vulnerable and marginalized of them in 2016. This will require a record US\$20.1 billion in funding – five times the amount a decade ago.

(UN Report, December 2015)



Performance cannot be achieved without continuous efforts.

Latest Livelihoods



'livelihoods' team

Editor-in-Chief	G Muralidhar
Working Editors	B Ramya
Edit Associates	T Venkateshwarlu
	V Aravind Kumar
	K Chayadevi
	S Laxman
	K Ramesh
	M Siddhardha

walked/ walking with us

T Aparna Gayathri	P Mahesh
K Bharathi	Mansi Koushik
G Bhargava	V Muralidhar
Bhima Shankar	D Narasimha Reddy
Chandranshu Gupta	Naval Shaini
Dharmendhar	T Nirmala
Glen Shewcheck	LB Prakash
K Krishna Chaithanya	M Raja Srinivas
P Kishore	S Rekha
Krishna Murari	B Sai Srinivas
M Lavanya	K Sridevi
B Madhusudhan	G Swathi
P Madhusudhan	M Vijaybhasker
G Madhu Vamsi	K Visweswar Rao

For Private Circulation only
***With Support From
Akshara Livelihoods (ALPL)***

For enquiries contact:

AKSHARA Network for Development Support Services,

1-8-1/B12/F1

HIG - II, APHB Colony

Baghlingampally, Hyderabad - 500044

Mobile: 09951819345

www.aksharakriti.org

www.livelihoods.net.in

aksharakriti@gmail.com

Focus: B R Ambedkar
11

Every Month.....

News & Response

4

News From States

5

Kshetram & Sukshetram

Andaman Nicobar Islands & Jenu Kuruba

6

Perspectives

Facilitating Hands!

7

Interviews

Common Person & Vulnerable Person

8

Interviews

Community Leader & Community Worker

9

Interviews

Development Worker

10

Story

My Mom Had One Eye

21

Books (1 Classic & 2 Latest),
Resources

Understanding Caste: From Buddha to
Ambedkar and Beyond

22

The Maker of Modern India

Ambedkar an Economist Extraordinaire'

'Yoga'kshemam

23

e-links

22

VCA

Artisanal Fisheries Mauritius

Subsector

Honey in Malawi

E-Book

Dr BR Ambedkar : The Maker of Modern India

V-Book

Johar Bastar - Self help groups paving the way to rural
development

Legendary Effort

Right to Education

Kshetram

Deccan Plateau

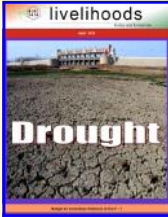
Livelihoods Management Notes

Flagship Programs

e- course

e-livelihoods
learning course

Capsule No: 278 –294



I have received 'livihoods' April 2016 & 3 Supplements. Thank you for sending.

ARPAN
Uttarakhand



Can Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) provide financial support to all rural entrepreneurs?

News

Rs 41,000 crore to TS power sector: Centre is committed to providing Rs 41,000 crore to Telangana for power sector development, Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said. Speaking to reporters after holding a review meeting with officials of different public sector units related to power sector here, Dattatreya said, "Rs 11,300 crore funds have been disbursed by the Centre.

Doubling of the constituency development: The Telangana government approved the doubling of the constituency development fund for MLAs and MLCs in the state of Telangana from Rs 1.50 crore to Rs 3 crore per annum. This 100% hike in funds from Chief Minister Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao is said to be the highest in the country for MLAs and MLCs.

IMD given a heat wave warning for Telangana: Contrary to what was predicted earlier by the weather experts, the temperatures are all set to soar in the coming days. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given a heat wave warning for Telangana for the next 72 hours. ❖

MedPlus to add 1,100 stores: Retail pharmacy chain MedPlus plans to expand its network in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana by opening 1,100 stores on the franchise model. The company, which is targeting to complete the expansion this fiscal and looking to replicate the model in other parts of the country, has partnered with State Bank of India for facilitating loans to the franchisees.

Mobile Rythu Bazaars soon: Minister for Agriculture and Marketing Prathipati Pulla Rao on Wednesday assured introduction of mobile Rythu Bazaars very soon to ensure supply of vegetables to the people at their doorsteps.

Around 4.11 lakh people affected by cyclone: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister N Chinnarajappa said around 4.11 lakh people were affected by 'Roanu' cyclone in the East Godavari district. "Crops in 9,360 hectares were damaged due to rains, which have been lashing the district for the last two days. 304 villages in 33 mandals of the district are affected by the cyclone," he said. ❖



India's Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstrator (RLV-TD), Successfully Flight Tested

Worst impacts of climate change: 'Global Environmental Outlook Regional Assessments' said the worst impacts of climate change are projected to occur in the Pacific and South and South-East Asia. It said focusing on the population at risk from sea-level rise by 2050, seven of the 10 most vulnerable countries worldwide are in the Asia Pacific region.

Wildfire cut oilsands production: In Canada, Wildfire could cut oilsands production in half; Reductions could amount to 1.4M barrels per day: Several oilsands companies are shutting down their operations as the wildfire around Fort McMurray draws closer to some facilities, reduces pipeline access and wreaks havoc on workers. ❖

News From the States

26% global poor in the country: India is home to 26% of the global extreme poor. This means that the world's ability to end extreme poverty by 2030 — an objective originally adopted by the World Bank and now a key element of the Sustainable Development Goals — hinges on India's ability to make strong and sustained inroads in reducing poverty.

Results of 2016 Assembly elections for four states: The Election commission of India announced the results of 2016 Assembly elections for four states of Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well as the Union Territory of Puducherry have come out with no major upsets and surprises. The regional parties such as the TMC leader Mamatha Benerjee and the AIADMK leader Jayalalitha clinched victory yet again from West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Highest-ever temperature recorded: Highest Temperature, India recorded its highest-ever temperature in Rajasthan recorded 51°C as several north and north-western states faced the heat wave, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

APPLE Inc in India: APPLE CEO Tim cook visited India, APPLE Inc will be setting up an iOS App Design and Development Accelerator – Bengaluru and also opened a Development Office to develop Maps for Apple products – in Hyderabad. It creates thousands of employment to the youth.

World's largest rooftop solar power plant: In Punjab, Beas town in the district of Amritsar will now own the distinction of having the world's single largest rooftop solar power plant. Spread over a continuous stretch of 42 acres, the renewable energy plant will have a power generation capacity of 11.5 megawatt (Mw), said media reports.

Water level in dams dips to a new low: Water storage in major Indian reservoirs has dipped to 19% of their total capacity, according to a weekly update by the Central Water Commission (CWC). Water storage in major Indian reservoirs has dipped to 19% of their total capacity, according to a weekly update by the CWC on Thursday. On the back of consecutive droughts in 2014 and 2015, several parts of India have faced searing droughts.

47,000 jobs in a single day: U.P. district creates 47,000 jobs in a single day!: On 1 May, as International Labour Day was celebrated the world over, in the small town of Gonda, 130 km from here, a record of sorts was set, hitherto not much publicised: the creation of a staggering 47,000 rural jobs in a single day! This, in a State which has attracted negative publicity in the past over its track record on creating rural jobs under MNREGA, the rural jobs scheme.

Foodgrains production estimated at 252.23 million tonnes: Foodgrain production in the ongoing crop

season (2015-16) is seen at 252.23 million tonnes, up by around 0.21 million tonnes, compared to last year, in spite of the country facing droughts in last two years. The latest data released by the Agriculture Ministry said that total foodgrains production during 2015-16, estimated at 252.23 million tonnes, is higher by 0.21 million tonnes over the foodgrain production of 252.02 million tonnes during 2014-15.

Battling with drought: the government told the Lok Sabha that drought had affected nearly 1.5 lakh villages across the country and around a quarter of its population had been impacted. Rural Development Minister Birender Singh said 313 districts, 1,58,205 villages and 4,44,280 dwellings had been hit by drought and the government was taking efforts to deal with the situation.

Industries Amendment Bill, 2015: 28 April 2016 the Rajya Sabha passed the Industries (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015 that bill seeks to amend -, Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 Key facts: The bill seeks to bring industries engaged in the manufacture of potable alcohol under the exclusive control of States in all respects.

IRNSS-1G navigation satellite: Isro's IRNSS-1G navigation satellite launched from the spaceport of Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh carrying India's seventh and last navigation satellite. India is now among the select five nations that boast of their own GPS or navigation system.

Commemorate Panchayat Diwas: On April 24 Prime Minister Modi addressed a rally of panchayat representatives in Jamshedpur to commemorate Panchayat Diwas. In this occasion, several national recognition awards were given to those panchayats and states which had performed well. For the effective implementation of PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act 1997, the awards went to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. This year, Panchayat Diwas was celebrated as the culmination of a nation-wide campaign by the central government. Gram Uday se Bharat Uday program started on Dr Ambedkar's birthday 14 April on the occasion of 125 birth anniversary of Dr. BR Ambedkar.

Government bow and takes the decisions on PF: After employee's agitations in several states, the Government of India was bow and takes the decisions on Provident Fund (PF) withdrawal and interest rate on EPF deposit from 8.7 to 8.8 percent.

GOI released Rs. 12,230 cr to the states: After Supreme Court interfere in the MGNREGS wages, The GOI released the amount Rs. 12,230 crore to the states for the rural jobs scheme. This verdict, so much of influence on the poor people and provide relief to them in drought situation. ❖

Andaman Nicobar Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of the seven union territories in India. These are a group of islands at the juncture of the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. The territory is 150 Km (93 miles) north of Aceh in Indonesia, and is separated from Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) by the Andaman Sea. It comprises of two island groups, the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands, separated by the 10° N Parallel, with the Andamans to the north of this latitude, and the Nicobars to the south. The territory's capital is the Andamanese town of Port Blair. The total land area of these islands is approximately 7,950 km. The capital of Nicobar Islands is Car Nicobar.



The people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands present a mix of two main categories i.e, indigenous tribals and outsiders who came here following the colonial rule. According to the 2011 Census of India, the population of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is 3,79,944, of which 2,02,330 were male and 1,77,614 were female. The sex ratio was 878 females for 1000 males. Only 10% of the population lived in Nicobar Islands. The majority of people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are Hindus (69%), with Christians forming the largest minority of 22% of the population, according to the 2011 census of India. There are small but significant Muslim (9%) and Sikh minorities.

These Islands' official languages are Hindi and English; besides these, 26% of people speak Bengali, 12% Telugu, 18% Tamil, 8% Malayalam and 8% of people speak Nicobarese.

A total of 48,675 hectares of land is used for agriculture. Paddy is the main food crop in the Andaman group of islands, whereas coconut and areca nut are the cash crops of Nicobar islands. Other crops are pulses, oilseeds and vegetables. Moreover, different types of fruits such as mango, sapota, orange, banana, papaya, pineapple and root crops are grown on hilly land owned by farmers. Spices such as pepper, clove, nutmeg and cinnamon are also grown under a multi-tier cropping system. Rubber, red oil, palm and cashew are grown on a limited scale in these islands.

There are 1,374 registered small-scale, village and handicraft units. Two units are export-oriented in the line of fish processing activity. Additionally, there are shells and wood based handicraft units. Industries include manufacturing of polythene bags, pipes and fittings, paints and varnished fibre glass and mini flour mills, soft drinks and beverages, bakery products, rice milling, furniture making etc.

Some of the old Andaman and Nicobar Islands people have continued to follow their age-old economic structure depending on hunting, gathering and fishing.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands are developing into a major tourism hub due to the draw of their largely unspoiled virgin beaches and waters, along with exotic-looking pristine islands having equally exotic names. A vast majority of the people of the Islands are dependent on tourism for their livelihoods. ❖

Jenu Kuruba

Jenu Kuruba is one of the most primitive tribes of Karnataka. These tribals are the original residents of the forest regions of Western Ghats, and inhabit a conclave of the three states; Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The word Jenu means honey and kuruba means shepherd. As the tribe's name indicates, they are gatherers of honey. According to one legend, after the fall of Pallava empire, many Kurubas settled down in South India as small land owners and farmers, while others of the Kuruba tribe took to hiding in the forests of South India, and developed their own culture and traditions, different from others due to their prolonged isolation.



The tribal community had a very strong symbiotic relationship with forests; however, ever since these people's forests in Bandipur were declared as a National Park, the tribe has been relocated to villages outside the limits of the National Park. As a result of this relocation, the tribe has been living on trees and is slowly disappearing into the mainstream.

The tribe lives in small settlements called Hadi or Hatti, and are traditionally food-gatherers, and practisers of shifting cultivation. The tribe, being a hunter-gatherer society, has always lead a nomadic life. Only in the recent past, have they taken to living in larger hamlets with government interventions, and practice agriculture as a subsidiary occupation. Instead of ploughing the field, the Jenu Kuruba tribe scratch the surface with a bamboo spear. The Jenu Kurubas take up various occupations like conventional food collecting, shifting cultivation, collection of NTFP (Non Timber Forest Produce) especially honey gathering.

They have their own local dialect which is known as Jenu Kuruba language. The tribe is caught in a flux, with a majority of its members suffering from malnutrition, Tuberculosis (TB), as a result of which many of them have died. The other diseases that have taken a toll on the Jenu Kurubas are diarrhea, skin diseases, monkey diseases, asthma and sickle cell anemia. The governments' efforts have been very minimal. Due to lack of timely medical care and modern medicine, the tribe's numbers have dwindled. Moreover, due to their increased alienation from forests and forced retreat into the "civilised" society, these people have started taken to consumption of alcohol.

Loss of their livelihoods and continued alienation with forests, around which their lives have been built, has brought Jenu Kurubas to the point of extinction. Unless, pro-active measures with good implementation strategies are not taken up by the authorities, the tribe, in the coming years, would become extinct. ❖

Facilitating Hands!

May Day!

Remember Rabindranath Tagore!

Remember Buddha!

The elections in five States/UTs pushed Congress to their lowest ebb. They must restructure, reform and transform and they will, I guess. BJP is gaining slowly. Regional Parties are still a force or two reckon with. Multiple contests have to give way to duels.

Amidst all this, Jayaprakash Narayan's Lok Satta opted out of election politics. Is it the way out for the concerned citizens? Lok Satta, the advocacy organization with volunteers continues.

NDA celebrates its two year tenure. Modi's NDA completes two years in office. KCR's TRS in Telangana and NCB's TDP in AP are also completing their two years in office. Welfare and cash transfers are doing fine. Organizing, building capacity and giving the power and choices to the poor to fight

their poverty on their own and improve meta-fishing livelihoods are a long way to go, notwithstanding our commitment to Sustainable Development Goals to reduce poverty to insignificant levels by 2030. The focus on these efforts is the immediate need.

It is time we had a dedicated empowered Cabinet Minister on Poverty Reduction – Institutions, Livelihoods and Employment of the Poor. It is time we had a tenured Secretary. It is time we had a dedicated empowered autonomous technical support organization, a la National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) of 70s and 80s. It is time we had civil society pitches in a big way. It is time we had the national

collectives of the poor taking some of this responsibility. It is time the poverty reduction, livelihoods and development workers collectivize and support the institutions and states. It is time we have learning institutes that generate/build professionals of high order in good numbers for this end. It is time we have mechanisms to run learning programs and nurture community resource persons/resource persons/mentors, a million or two in a decade or so, two lakh/year, to work with community leaders, cadres, resource persons and professionals, across the country.

Our **hope and faith** are not placed wrongly. Swayam Sahaayata and Kshamata Janaandolan Janaandolan is on its way. Facilitating hands and support make it quicker and faster.

Let us give this support unhesitatingly. Let us guarantee it. Let us budget for it. Let us coopt all the stakeholders to join hands. Let us build the facilitating hands at various levels. 100+ at the national level!

1000+ at the state level! 100000+ at the Block level! 1.0 million+ at the Village level! Can we do this, in these three years? Without compromising on quality?

Hope and faith in reduced poverty, improved livelihoods and lives guarantee 'power' to the deliverer. People offer 'brahmaratham'. Let the ruling coalitions vie for this. Let the national, state, district, block and GP leaders take this cue and do their bit quickly.

Let us go towards knowledge and wisdom. Let us go towards equity, humanity and justice.

Let us go to the people, be with the people and work with the people. ❖

Perspectives

G Muralidhar



1 May
International Workers Day



10 May
World Mother's Day

Regularize My Job...

Establish Grocery Store...

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Prabhakar, aged 26 years, belonging to Backward Class (BC) community, from Pochampally village, Nalgonda district, Telangana. I have done Diploma in handloom technology.

**Tell me about your family?**

I live with my parents, have two younger brothers and a sister. My parents are handloom weavers. I am married and my wife is a house-wife.

What are you doing?

I work as a contract junior technical officer in Telangana state handloom co-operative society in Hyderabad. I have been working in the office since 2010. Apart from that, I am also working in procurement section. I also purchase handloom products from various districts of cooperatives, for State of Telangana, as per higher official orders. At times I visit to the field, to collect handloom products. The office timings are from 10.30 AM to 5.30 PM. At times, I am deputed by the department to Exhibition Sales Centre for sale of handloom products. Promotion of handloom products, generates income to our cooperative society and also, it can give livelihoods to the handloom weavers.

Where did you work earlier?

Earlier, I had worked in APCO in sales division, Bhadrachalam and sold handloom products at the centres to the consumers. Later after 18 months, I worked in e-commerce section as a photographer in APCO. Later, I was given incharge of the procurement section.

Do you face any problems?

Job security is the biggest problem that I face. My father's deteriorating health problem is another concern that I have and also that I do not have any health insurance for providing better treatment to him.

Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have received voter card, adhaar card etc.

What are your future goals?

I want to set as a regularized government employee and provide service to handloom weavers. ❖

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Vinod Kumar, and I am 19 years old and have studied only till 7th Class.

**Where are you living?**

I live in Janamkunta Thanda, Ellampeta village, Marpeda mandal, Warnagal district. I am a Person With Disability (PWD) and I depend on my parents for survival.

Can you tell us about your family?

I have two sisters and a brother. My elder sister is a graduate, my younger sister is currently studying 10th class and my younger brother is studying in 6th in a Government School.

Why didn't you continue your studies?

There is no high school in my village; therefore, I could not pursue my higher education. Moreover, my disability was a hindrance to my travelling to school.

What are you doing?

As I am disabled from birth, I try to support my parents cultivate various crops in the three acres of land we have. I mobilize labourers near my house and I also help my parents in doing household chores such as bringing monthly grocery items, etc. I spend the rest of my time at home.

Are you a member of any group in your village?

Yes, six months back, I joined a Disabled Self Help Group (DSHG) in my village. I am saving Rs. 50/- per month.

Are you facing any problems?

My major problem is unemployment. Apart from that, I have been trying to get a mobility vehicle from the Mandal Office, but I have been unsuccessful so far.

Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I am availing a disability pension of Rs.1,500/-; I have aadhar and voter cards.

What are your future plans?

I want to establish a grocery store in my village. ❖

We Develop Our MS...

Good Education

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Krishnaveni, aged 42 years, belong to Scheduled Caste (SC) community, native of Janampeta village, Pinapaka mandal, Khammam district, Telangana, and completed my Secondary School Certificate (SSC). I am a widow, and live with my daughter and son. My daughter is currently pursuing her graduation in ITDA (Integrated Tribal Development Agency) Badrachalam and my son has passed SSC recently.

What are you doing?

Since 2013, I am serving as the President of Swashakthi Mandala Mahila Samakya (SMMS). I have also been serving as the President for Shabari Village Organization (VO) and Snehanjali Self Help Group (SHG) for 15 years. My job description involves, conducting monthly Mandal Samakya (MS) meeting in MS premises; preparing agenda for meeting with; operating MS bank account i.e.,

I attend Zilla Samakya (ZS) meetings at district level as a representative of Mandal Samakya, and inform our problems to ZS. The MS provides me with travel allowance, whenever I provide time for MS works. I also work as agriculture labour in cotton and mirchi fields during the season. I leased out my agriculture land holding of 2.5 acres to my neighbor and earn an income on land per year. During summer lean months, I work as a labour in MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) programme and during that period I earn a daily wage of Rs. 160/- - Rs.180 /- and this amount helps me in sustaining my family. I have also availed loan from ITDA agency and invested an amount to run a grocery shop. I run the shop in morning and evening hours and work during the remaining time.

Did you get any training?

Yes, I have received training on leadership; roles and responsibilities of leaders and members. As I have actively participated in SHG and VO works for 15 years, I am putting that experience and knowledge to use in Mandal Samakya (MS) also.

Do you face any problems?

I face the political problem with our office bearers.

Did you get any benefits from the government?

I availed ration, aadhar, election, MGNREGS card etc. I have constructed a house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) scheme in my village.

What are your future goals?

My aim is to develop our MS as the best at the district level. Also, I want to educate my children, and settle them in their life. ❖

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Ramesh, aged 36 years old, completed my graduation and living in Pinapaka mandal, Khammam district, Telangana.



Can you tell us about your family?

I have my family and I live with my parents, along with my wife and children, my elder daughter is studying in class VI and son in class IV. I belong to Backward Caste (BC) community. My family owns one acre of Irrigated land and we cultivate paddy.

What do you do?

I have been working as a Cluster Coordinator (CC) in Pinapaka Mandal Samakya (PMS) for past eight months. I am coordinating nine villages, 12 Village Organizations (VOs), 125 Self Help Groups (SHGs), 13 Elders Self Help Groups (ESHGs). My role involves formation of SHGs; impart Capacity Building (CB) of SHGs and VOs; revival of existing defunct and default groups; strengthening of groups; conducting and attending weekly meetings; supporting groups for linking with government projects and banks for economical support etc. As on date, I have facilitated SHG members in availing loans of Rs.25 lakhs to SHG members through APGVB and SBH banks.

Where did you work earlier?

After completion of graduation, I worked as a volunteer in orphan's school. Later, I joined as a CC in Aswapuram mandal.

What are the problems you face in your daily work?

The community with whom I work with are mostly illiterate and they do not respond to me, as expected and it takes time for them to accept us and understand the aim of the project itself. Secondly, my remuneration is not commensurate against the hard work that I put in. As a result of my poor salary, I am not able to support my family. Lastly, there is no recognition for our works in the community.

Did you get any training?

Yes, I have received trainings for two weeks on Streenidhi in AMR APARD last year.

Did you get any benefits from the Government?

Yes, I have availed ration card, aadhar and voter cards.

What are your future plans?

I want to provide good education to my children. ❖

Enhance My Knowledge...

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Dolon Mukherjee, and I am 28 years old. I have completed my Masters in Rural Development & Management (MRDM). I am a native of Durgapur, Burdwan district of West Bengal (WB) state. I live with my mother, elder sister and husband.

What are you doing at present?

I am working as a Programme Executive (PE) in Kolaghat block in East Medinipur district in a project named 'GAMAN' under HelpAge India (HI).

Can you tell us about your previous work?

I worked as a Sponsorship Coordinator (SC) in Right Track in a project supported by Action Aid from August 2009 to May 2010.

Can you tell us about your present job?

I have been working in HelpAge India as a Young Professional since June 2010. I applied for the Young Professional post at Kolkata in HelpAge India by seeing an advertisement on Devnetjobsindia.org website. I was called for a written test, computer test and personal interview consecutively. Around 15-20 other people had come for the interview. However, I got selected, and got the appointment letter within a week. After joining, I attended a development induction programme.

My first placement was in six districts of WB though I was based at the Kolkata National office. Initially, I joined in a project called 'Sponsor a Grandparent Programme', funded by HelpAge International being implemented in six districts of WB. Later, I worked as a Project Officer in ASTITVA project, jointly funded by HelpAge India and HelpAge International. From November 2016, I have been working as a Programme Executive (PE) in GAMAN project.

Can you explain your roles and responsibilities in the job?

As a Program Executive my key roles and responsibilities include forming Elderly Self Help Groups (ESHG) and Village Level Federations (VLFs) with elderly persons; conducting training programs to ESHGs and VLFs members and leaders; facilitating the Micro Credit Plans in ESHGs; identifying bookkeepers and providing training to bookkeepers; identifying Elderly Community Resource Persons (ECRPs) from active elderly persons and providing training to ECRPs; opening bank accounts for ESHGs in banks; liaising with banks for credit linkage to ESHGs; participating regularly in ESHGs' meetings; promoting internal lending; monitoring bookkeeping and repayment in ESHGs; identifying eligible elders for old age pensions,

widow pensions and Annapurna scheme; promoting elderly destitute care by ESHGs; conducting health camps, Intraocular Lens (IOL) camps; providing devices for eligible elder persons; promoting community managed health system through VLF; facilitating ESHGs' members to identify farm and non-farm based livelihood interventions and income generative activities; providing livelihoods assets to ESHGs through the project.



What are your achievements?

The self-initiated social action by Ashar Alo ESHG (Coochbehar district, WB) during Gadadhar mela was a moment of pride as the motto of Elders for Elders looked quite close with this initiative. Furthermore, credit linkage with Nationalised Banks was one more critical milestone I achieved.

What are your experiences?

It has been a great experience working with the senior citizens. Whenever I talk to a group of elders, it gives me an immense pleasure to learn a lot from them. Their experiences in life are very engrossing. They know so much. My job is just to facilitate them, so that they can gain their lost self-esteem. Their blessings pour on me unconditionally.

What are the challenges and issues you face?

Financial inclusion of elderly is one of the main issues and challenges that I face in my work with rural elderly. The lack of financial literacy, unprepared ageing and banks' policies to extend credit linkage to elders is a very important barrier for their economic development, followed by lack of adequate health facilities for the elderly, lack of social security schemes to stop destitution and lowering of family values leading to nuclear family system has been precipitating the cases of elder abuse.

How are you overcoming these challenges?

Establishing linkages with the financial and non-financial institutions, linkages with the concerned line departments of the Government, spreading awareness amongst the elderly for their enhancement of the savings habit, institution building for their empowerment.

What is your vision?

My vision is to enhance my knowledge base as a development practitioner, so that I can add value to the lives of the section of society I am working with. ❖

B R Ambedkar

Dr Bh maRao Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was one of the chief architects of Indian Constitution. He was a well known politician and an eminent jurist. Ambedkar's efforts to eradicate the social evils like untouchability and caste restrictions were remarkable in the country. He has contributed in many walks of life as scholar, journalist, economist, activist, legal luminary, social reformer and political leader. His biggest and most important contribution was in his role as the chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India.



One of the Chief Architects of Indian Constitution is Dr. Bhima Ramji Ambedkar, infamously known as Babasaheb Ambedkar. He strived to eradicate social evils in Indian society i.e., untouchability and caste restrictions, which were rampantly present in our country. Dr. Ambedkar, throughout his life, fought for the rights of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (SC & ST). He was a well known Politician and an eminent jurist and was the first law minister for India.

Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (BR Ambedkar/Babasaheb) was born on 14 April 1891, in Mahow village, Madhya Pradesh. He was the 14th child and last child among 14 siblings in his family. His parents were Ramji Maloji Sakpal and his mother name was Bhimabai Murbadka, as his father worked as Subedar in Indian Army. His native was Ambavade, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra, India. He belonged to Mahar Community (SC) and his family moved to Mahow Military Cantonment Area, prior to his birth, due to practice of untouchability. His surname was Ambavadekar, as he was a native of Ambavade, it was during his school days that his teacher changed his surname to Ambedkar. It was in 1894 that his mother expired, followed by his father in year 1913, after completion of his graduation.

BR Ambedkar passed his matriculation examination in Elphinstone High School, Mumbai in 1907 and after that he joined in Elphinstone College for higher studies, and it was affiliated to the University of Bombay. Dada Keluskar presented a biography of the Buddha to Ambedkar, Dada Keluskar was a family friend of him and also author of this book.

In 1912, he was awarded Degree in Economics and Political Science from the then Bombay University, later he earned a job in Bank, Baroda State Government. It was again in 1915 he completed his Post-Graduation (PG) in Economics from Columbia University and availed scholarship from Baroda State Government for a period of three years under the King Sayajirao Gaekwad –III. Later with the help of King, he left for United States of America (USA) to pursue his Post-Graduation at the age of 22 in 1913 and completed his course in Sociology, History, Philosophy and Anthropology and during his course of stay in USA.



ब्राह्मण कुत्ते का किया दुषित पानी पी सकता है मगर दलित का छुआ भी नहीं डॉ. अम्बेडकर से पहले यह स्थान था हमारा हिन्दू धर्म में

Ambedkar was influenced by John Dewey and his works on “Democracy.” While, studying the course, he presented a three Thesis, first one was on “Ancient Indian Commerce.” In 1916, it was on “National Divident of India – A Historic Analytical Study.” Third one being “The Problem of Rupee” and for that he receive his Ph.D in Economics in 1927. Later, he also completed his Bar at Law too.

Dr. Ambedkar, was married to Rambai in 1906, when he was all of 15 years and his wife was nine years old. She died after brief long illness in 1935. After, his wife death, Ambedkar as suffering from insomnia, as a result of this, he visited Bombay for treatment, as he completed Indian Constitution in late 1940s. During this time, he married Dr. Sharada Kabir in 1948 to support him and she was a Bhramin. Ambedkar continued to suffer from serious health problems i.e., diabetes, loss of vision and it was on 06 December 1956, he expired, just three days prior to completion of his final manuscript “The Buddha and His Dhamma.” His funeral ceremony was attended by hundreds of thousands of supporters, activists and admirers.

Ambedkar, he himself was a victim of untouchability and this experience of his own and many others who were victims of untouchability, he had deep concern and as a result he wanted to work toward development of SCs and other socially backward communities. It was in 1923, that he began practicing Law and also devoted himself for upliftment of SCs and poor marginalized people. He favoured the concept of providing reservations for SCs and other backward communities and as wells as religious communities, as he choose this strategy to fight against caste discrimination in India.

Ambedkar, devised method to reach to people through newspaper called "Mooknayak" and make them understand the drawbacks of social evils i.e., caste discrimination.

Ambedkar was appointed as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to finalize the Indian Constitution and Ambedkar spent most of his time in writing Constitution and the text prepared by Ambedkar sought towards constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, which included freedom of religion, abolition of untouchability and outlawing all forms of discrimination.

Ambedkar, had extensively argued for social rights for women and extensive economic support and for this he won the Assembly's support for introducing a system of reservations for Jobs for the Members of SCs and STs. Ambedkar provided an inspiring preamble ensuring justice, social, economic, political, liberty, equality and fraternity.

It was in 1930 that Ambedkar became President of All India Depressed Class Association . On 25th September 1932, agreement known as Poona Pact was signed between Ambedkar (on behalf of the depressed classes) and Madan Mohan Malaviya (on behalf of the other Hindus). The agreement gave reserved seats for depressed classes in Provisional Legislatures, within the general electorate. From that time onwards, untouchables were called SC and ST under India Act, 1935.

In 1936, Ambedkar formed "Independent Labor Party" and it was his party that had won 15 seats in 1937 elections to Central Legislative Assembly. Later the party was renamed to "All India Schedule Caste Federation" and it had performed poorly in 1946 elections.



Ambedkar objected to the decision of Congress and Gandhi to name untouchables as "HARIJANS", as he argued that untouchable community members were same as other members of society.

Ambedkar, could vision the future of SCs and other BCs in Independent India, though he had provided all the Constitutional Provisions safeguarded. He took to conversion into Buddhism, as he strongly believed that Buddhism provided equality to all SCs and other BC groups. This drew him to travel to Sri Lanka in year 1950 to attend convention of Buddhist scholars and monks. Around 1950s Ambedkar studied about Buddhism. He was thinking that Buddhism, only way for SCs and other BCs to gain equality.

Ambedkar, adopted Buddhism on May 1956 on occasion of Buddha Jayanthi in Bombay and it was on October 14, 1956 he embraced Buddhism along with many followers. On the same day, he organized a public ceremony to convert around five lakh of his supporters, followers into Buddhism in Dheekshaboomi, Nagpur. Dr. Ambedkar prescribed 22 vows for these

converts, and read many books, related to Buddhism, visited to places like Ceylon, Burma, Kathmandu and Nepal and also participated in World Fellowship of Buddhists conferences. He had written books on Buddhism, like "The Buddha and His Dhamma" in 1956, which was published after he died, he founded the Buddhist Society of India in 1955.

Ambedkar, untimely death, barely after six weeks after his conversion in Nagpur also saw the Buddhist movement lost momentum, when it was crucial point in



history. Conversion ceremonies in other major Indian cities, that were planned to follow the Nagpur event failed to take place. Following his death, Ambedkar movement was divided and lacked direction and there were few Buddhist teachers to educate millions of followers in new faith.

Ambedkar was a great scholar lawyer and freedom fighter along with hundreds of thousands of Mahar's untouchable caste and converted to Buddhism and changed the face of Buddhism in India. Ambedkar's conversion was a symbolic protest to the oppression of caste inequality and his efforts to eradicate social evils were remarkable and that was the reason he was called "messiah" of SCs and STs.

According to him participation of women in economic development was important as without developing their social status and equality it was impossible for any nation's growth. Ambedkar clearly visualized that due to bad economic conditions of women in India, India's economic progress was hampered. Thus, it was important to improve economic condition of women and provide them with equal rights and freedom of occupation.

Ambedkar who himself faced caste based discrimination and witnessed to women as the victims of oppressive, caste based and rigid hierarchical social system. Ambedkar argued for extensive economic and social rights for women and according to him, the most significant feature of the fundamental rights made it more justifiable. Throughout his life he worked for their rights and also discussed numerous problems women face and also sought their solutions in Bombay Legislative Council and also as a Chairman of Drafting Committee and also in Parliament as the first law minister of Independent India.

Ambedkar key arguments were on the Maternity Benefit Bill and on the Birth critical, were quite relevant to recognize the dignity of women. His untiring struggle, started yielding results, as gradually women began participating in Sathyagrahs and also formed into women's associations for untouchable women for spreading education and awareness among themselves. Ambedkar, in All India Depressed Women's Conference held at Nagpur in July 1940, stated that "I am great believer in women's organizations I know that what they can do to improve the condition of the society if there are convinced. They should educate their children."

In 1932, hundreds of women were participated in meetings after Ambedkar returned to India after round table conference. Ambedkar was thinking on women, status of women, as the chairman of the drafting committee he tried and adequate inclusion of women's rights in the political and constitution of India. Therefore, by considering women's equality both in formal and substantial sense he included special provisions for women while all other general provisions are applicable to them, as to men constitutional provisions.

Ambedkar was a great thinker, leader and intellectual person during his time and continues to be one of the greatest legend, as he changed the life of millions of SCs and STs, but shaped India as a biggest democratic nation by writing its constitution. Many of them know that Ambedkar fights against caste system in India, but people do not know that Dr. Ambedkar had also impacted Indian economy. Ambedkar had conducted studies in Indian Agriculture system and he wrote articles, organized seminars and conference to solve problems of agriculture and farmers and also led farmer's movements in India. We can see his thoughts on agriculture in his articles like "Small holdings in India and their remedies" and also in "Status and Minorities". He said that holding of lands by few people is an acute problem of Indian agriculture which has various disadvantages, like difficulties in cultivation and utilization and resources, increasing cost, low productivity, inadequate income, low standard of living.

Ambedkar agriculture productivity is related to not only with the size of land holding but also with the other factors like capita, labour, and other inputs. Therefore if capital or labours are not available in adequate quantity and quality, even large size of land can become unproductive. On other side small size lands become productive if these resources are available. With this thought the 'Land ceiling Act' was passed after independence.

Ambedkar pointed about the slavery and exploitation of labour bonded under caste system was of appropriate for economic development of our country and his suggestion was that agriculture problem could be resolved by way of collective farming, economical holding of land size or equal distribution of land, large scale industrialization, provision of money, water, seeds and fertilizers by the government, cultivation of waste land and also by allocation of waste land to landless labour, minimum wages to be provided for labourers and

also through control and regulation of private lenders (money) to farmers. His focus and belief was that strategy for India's economic development was based on eradication on property elimination of inequities and ending exploitation of masses. Thus, he lay emphasis on exploitation and all forms of exploitation should be eliminated.

Dr Ambedkar presented democratic state socialism to the constitution committee. The main points were

- ◆ All basic industries should be owned and run by the state
- ◆ Insurance and agriculture should be nationalized and managed by the state
- ◆ Maintenance of productive resources by state
- ◆ Just distribution of common produce
- ◆ Provision for compensation of land or industry acquisition in the form of bonds
- ◆ The distribution of village and among the families in a village for collective farming
- ◆ No discrimination as landlord, tenants, and agriculture labourers
- ◆ All agriculture input like capital, seeds, fertilizers etc would be provided to collective farming by the government
- ◆ Distribution of agriculture income only after payment of land revenue tax
- ◆ Punishment according to rules who do not follow



fall in value. He proved the importance of price and stability over exchange stability. And also he analysed the silver and gold exchange rates and their effect on the economy. He established Finance Commission of India in 1951. He opposed income tax for low income group in India. He played important role in land reform and the state economic development. He emphasised equal rights for women with men for economic development. Ambedkar created good impact on Indian currency system under British rule, when India Government was struggling with falling value of Indian rupee.

Ambedkar focused his studies and research on the condition of Indian currency, during British India. He wrote research thesis on it. In his thesis, he discuss that the gold exchange standard does not have stability. The

You must abolish your slavery yourselves, do not depend for its abolition upon god or a superman. Remember that that it is not enough that people are numerically in the majority. They must be always watchful, strong and self-respecting to attain and maintain success. We must shape our course ourselves and by ourselves. – BR Ambedkar

Ambedkar was the first person in India to complete economics as he thought about agriculture, industrialization growth for increase in Indian economy. He stressed on the need for more investment in agriculture sector and Ambedkar's vision was to help the government towards achieving food security for all. He strongly advocated for national, economic and social development, calling for the need to stress on importance of education, public hygiene, community health, residential facilities and basic needs.

Ambedkar thesis was that "The problem of Rupee" its origin and solution "examines the causes for the rupee's

developing countries like Indian cannot afford gold exchange standards, and besides this, it also increases the risk of inflation and price rise. He proved with statistics data and reasons how the Indian Rupee has lost its value and hence the purchasing power of Rupee is falling. He suggested that Government deficit should be regulated and money should have a circular flow. He also suggested more attention should be given on price stability than exchange rate stability. His book 'The problem of Rupee' eventually lead to the establishment of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Dr Ambedkar had written a number of books and articles. Furthermore, several movies, plays, and other works have been based on the life and thoughts of Ambedkar. The books and articles are as follows.....



- ♦ *Administration and Finance of the East India Company*
- ♦ *Ancient Indian Commerce*
- ♦ *Caste in India; Their mechanism, Genesis and Development*
- ♦ *Small Holding in India and their Remedies*
- ♦ *Mr Russell and the Reconstruction of Society*
- ♦ *The Present Problem in India Currency -I*
- ♦ *The Present Problem in India Currency -II*
- ♦ *Review: Currency and Exchange by HL Chablani*
- ♦ *The Evolution of Provisional Finance in British India: A Study in the Provincial Decentralization of Imperial Finance*
- ♦ *Statement of Evidence to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency*
- ♦ *Statement of Evidence to the Royal Commission on Indian Currency on 15 December 1925*
- ♦ *Review Report: Report of the taxation Enquiry Committee, 1926*
- ♦ *Untouchables or the Children of India's Ghetto*
- ♦ *Essay on Untouchables and Untouchability: Social*
- ♦ *Essay on Untouchables and Untouchability: Political*
- ♦ *Essay on Untouchables and Untouchability: Religious*
- ♦ *Philosophy of Hinduism*
- ♦ *India and Pre-Requisite of Communism*
- ♦ *Revolution and counter-Revolution*
- ♦ *Buddha or Karl Marx*
- ♦ *Riddles in Hinduism*
- ♦ *The Untouchables and the Pax Britannica*
- ♦ *Manu and the Shudras*
- ♦ *Lectures on English Constitution*
- ♦ *Paramountcy and the Claim of the Indian States to be Independent*
- ♦ *Notes on Acts and Laws*
- ♦ *Annihilation of Caste*
- ♦ *Federation versus Freedom*
- ♦ *Ranade, Gandhi and Jinnah*
- ♦ *Mr Gandhi and the emancipation of the Untouchables*
- ♦ *Communal Deadlock and a Way to Solve it*
- ♦ *What Congress and Gandhi have done to the Untouchables*
- ♦ *Who were the Shudras?*
- ♦ *Foreword: commodity Exchange by PG Salve*
- ♦ *The Problem of Rupee: Its Origin and its Solution*
- ♦ *History of Indian Currency and Banking*
- ♦ *States and Minorities: What are their Rights and How to secure them in the Constitution of Free India*
- ♦ *Foreword: Social Insurance and India by MR Idgunji*
- ♦ *The Untouchables: Who were they and why they became Untouchables?*
- ♦ *Maharashtra as a Linuistic Province (Statement Submitted to the Linguistic Provinces Commission)*
- ♦ *Pakistan or the Partition of India*
- ♦ *Note on the Annexure (Chapter IX: A plea to the foreigner-Additional Chapter in Second Edition of What Congress and Gandhi...)*
- ♦ *Commercial relations of India in the Middle Ages or the rise of Islam and the Expansion of Western Europe*
- ♦ *Indian on the Eve of the Crown Government*
- ♦ *Waiting for a Visa: Autobiographical notes*
- ♦ *The Constitution of British India*
- ♦ *Notes on Parliamentary Procedure*
- ♦ *Notes on History of India*
- ♦ *Preservation of Social Order With the Hindus Frustration*
- ♦ *The Problem of Political Suppression*
- ♦ *Which is worse? Slavery or Untouchability*
- ♦ *Need for Checks and Balances-Article on Linguistic State*
- ♦ *Thoughts on Linguistics States*

◆ *Buddha and his Dhamma*

Ambedkar, contribution to the Nation has been highly inspirational and his legacy continues in various forms as in our country many schools, colleges, universities, associations and clubs are established in the name of him, this is also found in country Hungary and Even The President of USA, Mr Barak Obama acknowledged that Ambedkar as the father of Indian Constitution. Prof. Arnest Walker dedicated to the Preamble of Indian Constitution to his book “The Principles of social and Political Theory”.

It is accepted by the whole world that, Dr Ambedkar's political and constitutional vision is on par with the world philosophers, his vision and wisdom to foresee the future s unmatched in all over the world and therefore whole world reveres him as a constitutional father and a philosophical mastermind, Who has given this world the Masterpiece Gem of Parliamentary Democracy in the form of Indian Constitution. It is sign of every great personality that they do not take credit of their work. They always give credit to others. Ambedkar also did the same thing by acknowledging every member of the committee for making up the constitution. It was his big heart that he acknowledged every member, but it is sad and unfortunate that the Indian society and so called educated people like us does not acknowledge nor be thankful to BR Ambedkar for his great work. Rather people feel great honor by criticizing the constitution and its father. He gave free India its legal framework, and the people, the basis of their freedom. To this end, his contribution was significant, substantial, and spectacular.

Ambedkar contribution to the evolution of free India lies in his striving for making out justice – social, economic and political to one and all. We can say that the Indian Constitution was the product of Ambedkar. It was fully influenced by the philosophy of Ambedkar. He had a vision for future India. When he was elected as a Chairman of the Drafting Committee he forgot his personal anxiety and joined hands with Congress in general and Pandit Nehru agreed to work together for the betterment of the newly born nation.

Many public institutions are named in his honour, in Nagpur, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International airport, Dr BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar is also names in his honour. The Maharastra government has acquired house where Ambedkar lived



during his days as a student in London, 1920.

Though, he struggled all throughout his life for seeking justice for the SCs and other socially backward communities, the plight of downtrodden, even as on today remains grim in spite of having many rights and entitlements to the backward communities and they are in various forms.

Chairman of Constitution of India:

India celebrated independence on 15 August 1947 and initially, Congress party led the government. Prime Minister of India, Nehru invited to Ambedkar to serve the nation as first law minister to Ambedkar. And also He was chairman of Indian constitution drafting committee. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949 by the Constituent Assembly and came into effect on 26 January 1950. The Constituent Assembly took time almost three years (2 years, 11 months and 18 days) to complete the drafting the Constitution for India.

The people of India were given eight months to discuss the draft and propose amendments. As many as 7635 amendments were proposed and 2473 were actually discussed. These all amendments were checked and studied by Dr BR Ambedkar alone during the making and this has been accepted by the whole constitution assembly. If we compare the duration of writing the other world constitutions and the Indian constitution (having 395 Articles and eight Schedules and several parts) it is difficult task to complete writing such a vast constitution.

Ambedkar was the Father/chief of Indian Constitution. He was appointed as chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee on 29 August in 1947 by Assembly to write new India's constitution. The seven members of drafting committee, including the chairman of the drafting committee were follows...

◆ *BR Ambedkar*

GRAM UDAY SE BHARAT UDAY ABHIYAN
14 to 24 April

A nation wide movement towards Social Harmony, strengthening of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development and Farmers' Progress

Being launched from Mhow
On 14 April
by
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
On the occasion of birth anniversary of
Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

Social Harmony Programme
Dt. 14, 15, 16 April

1. How to strengthen social harmony in villages
2. Introduction of Balasansad, Ambedkar's life and his vision, etc. traditions integration, Distribution of related literature
3. Awareness about the schemes ensuring social harmony
4. To organize Ambedkar 100 movement phases in the life of Balasansad
5. Playing models to Dr. Ambedkar

Gram Kisan Sabha
Dt. 17, 18, 19, 20 April

1. Information about important schemes in agricultural sector - Discussion with Farmers
2. Presentation of awareness about schemes in agricultural sector - Prime Minister Rashtriya Krishi Sikshayatri Yojana, Soil Health Card, animal husbandry, post-harvest, cropping cycle, Horticulture, importance of drip irrigation, Rainfed coated area & rural electrification
3. Discussion on doubling the income of farmers by 2022

Gram Sabha Meeting
Dt. 21, 22, 23, 24 April

1. Discussion focused on issues related to village development
2. Organize program for, culture sports and cleanliness programmes
3. Conclude discussion on Panchayati Raj, Gram Sadak Yojana, ANMESTC, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Sarva Shiksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Aardram Yojana, Skill Development Schemes

On the occasion of Panchayati Raj Diwas on 24 April
List release of Prime Minister's special visits each state on December 15 & 16, 2015
Prize to outstanding Panchayats at a conference of Panchayati Raj representatives in Jalandhar

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India

scheduled tribes, a system similar to positive action. Ambedkar also had central role in guiding his committee towards the sort of socialistic, idealistic, vision. He emphasised and took initiative and very deliberately introduced the principle of reservation for dalits in parliament, educational institutional and in government jobs.

Constitutional Provisions:

The Constitution of Indian contains various provisions, which provide for equal rights and opportunities for both men and women.

- ♦ Article 14 guarantees that the state shall not deny equality before the law and equal protection of the laws;
- ♦ Article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the ground of sex;
- ♦ Article 15 (3) empowers the state to make positive discrimination in favour of women and children;
- ♦ Article 16 provides for equality of opportunity in matters of public employment;
- ♦ Article 23 prohibits trafficking in human beings and forced labour;
- ♦ Article 39 (a) and (d) enjoins the state to provide equal means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work;

It is the education which is the right weapon to cut the social slavery and it is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden masses to come up and gain social status, economic betterment and political freedom - BR Ambedkar

- ♦ N Goipala swamy
- ♦ A Krishnaswamy Ayyar
- ♦ KM Munshi
- ♦ Saijio Mola Saadullah
- ♦ N Madhava Rao
- ♦ DP Khitan.

Dr Ambedkar played key and important role in the framing of the Indian Constitution. Dr Ambedkar used all his experience and knowledge in drafting the Indian Constitution. Draft was prepared by Ambedkar also offered constitutional assurance and security for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, which included freedom of religion, the elimination of untouchability and the banning of all types of discrimination. Dr Ambedkar also worked for widespread financial and social rights for women society, and also won the support of Assembly for bringing in a system of job reservations in the Indian Civil Services, schools and colleges for members of planned caste and

- ♦ Article 42 enjoins upon the state to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work, and maternity relief;
- ♦ Article 51 A(e) imposes a Fundamental Duty on every citizen to renounce the practice derogatory to the dignity of women;
- ♦ Article 243D (3) provides that not less than 1/3 of the total number of seats to be filled by direct elections in every Panchayat to be reserved for women, and such a seats to be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat;
- ♦ Article 243T (3) also same in Municipality ;
- ♦ Article 243T (4) provides reservation of offices of Chairperson in Municipalities for SC, ST, Women in such manner as the legislature of a state, may by law provide;

But now they are developing stage because they are utilizing reservation and get awareness on important of education system. Ambedkar's effort was there beyond

their development. Central and state governments implement schemes and subsidy to them to eliminate poverty in their community. They improve in livelihoods, education, but still they are facing lot of problems in after 69 years of independence. In political, very less number of people are participating in elections, government provides particular reservation to low caste.

Various welfare schemes for the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes have been implemented and implementing by the central and state governments in India. Since independence, government have been supporting to poor people to give better life to them through various schemes.

Schemes for Schedule Castes:

- ◆ Special central assistance for schedule caste sub plan
- ◆ Pre and Post matric scholarships for SC students
- ◆ Free coaching for SC students
- ◆ Special educational development programme for SCs girls belonging to low literacy levels
- ◆ Venture capital fund for SCs
- ◆ Rajiv Gandhi national Fellowship Programme for higher education for SC students
- ◆ Self employment scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers
- ◆ In 2015-16 Financial year, Government allocated suppurate union budget for SCs Rs.30,850
- ◆ Establishing vocational training centres for SC youth
- ◆ Central Government launch “Stand up India” scheme for SCs, STs and women. It provides loans through banks to start new enterprises.
- ◆ In Maharashtra, state government reserved 20% of industrial plots for schedule caste and schedule tribes of small and medium industrialists. The policy, which is named as Dr Babasaheb

Schemes for Schedule Tribes (STs):

- ◆ Institutional support for development and marketing of tribal product scheme
- ◆ Establishing vocational training centres in tribal areas
- ◆ Equity support to NSTFDC/STFDC of tribals to start income generate activities
- ◆ Direct Benefit Transfer for post matric scholarship, top class education, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship and pre matric scholarships for class IX & X students
- ◆ Establish Model Residential Schools for tribal students
- ◆ Scheme of Strengthening education among ST girls in low literacy districts
- ◆ Centrally sponsored scheme of hostels for ST boys and ST girls
- ◆ Establishment of Ashram schools in tribal sub plans areas
- ◆ Scheme of development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)

Now, as per 2011 census 20.14 crore people belong to various schedule caste in India. There are 9.79 crore women among the total SC population. Now a days so many dalits have converted to Christianity that today majority of the Christian population of India is dalits. There are 10.4 crore people belong to various schedule tribes as per 2011 census.

Even today, there are lot of differences between SC children and higher caste children in schools. In some places in India, other caste children do not eat if SC people made food and higher caste children do not sit along with lower caste children in mid meal school even in class rooms. In a few districts of Madhya Pradesh, SC children are reportedly served food from a distance in schools. Such caste biases in school will not only

Category as per Government of India (GOI)	Reservation Percentage as per Government of India
Schedule Tribes (ST)	7.5%
Schedule caste (SC)	15%
Other backward Classes (OBC)	27%
Total Constitutional Reservation Percentage	49.5%

- ◆ Ambedkar Special Group Entrepreneurship Scheme.

deprive these children of education but also fill their minds with pessimism about society at a tender age. Ambedkar throughout his life advised downtrodden people to get educated before agitating for their rights.

Still in India, there are some practices are done by SC people like manual scavenging, dumping dead bodies of feral animals, cobbler works etc. Manual scavengers collect human excreta with their broom sticks and tin plate and carry it's for disposal. These works division continues based upon the traditional Hindu social order. Ambedkar said that "in India, a man is not a scavenger because of his work. He is a scavenger because of his birth irrespective of the question whether he does scavenging or not."

A depressing fact as revealed in the 2011 census data on households is that an estimated eight lakh people are traditionally engaged in manual removal of night soil — a great embarrassment to the state governments that are still in denial mode. The census data shows that Uttar Pradesh continues to have the dubious distinction of leading the list with approximately 3.2 lakh people still involved in manually removing human waste. In 1993, The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act has provision for punishment, including fine, for employing scavengers or constructing dry toilets. However, manual scavengers are continued to be employed to this day by municipalities, the Railways and defence establishments.

Ambedkar is considered the "messiah" of downtrodden communities for his efforts to bring equal opportunity and social justice to the dalits and other low caste. We do not forget to his efforts for Indian Constitution and as chairman of the constitutional drafting committee he gave shape to our country and also downtrodden communities' development.

Dr Ambedkar's name will be written in golden letters in

the history of India as the creator of social justice. He was a true son of India, who spent his whole life for the betterment of his fellow citizens, especially the poor, exploited, discriminated etc. Thus, Dr Ambedkar's contribution to India, especially his role in the Indian Constitution, is undoubtedly of the highest order. Indeed he deserves to be called a messiah and the "Father of Indian Constitution".

United Nations (UN) celebrated BR Ambedkar's 125th birthday anniversary, in its headquarters based at New York. It declared BR Ambedkar as a global 'icon' for marginalized people. On occasion of BR Ambedkar birthday anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released, commemorative coins on BR Ambedkar and launched new program called ' Gram Uday se Bharat Uday Abhiyan' in Ambedkar's birth place Mhow in Madhya Pradesh state. The program aims to empower rural people.

BR Ambedkar's efforts continue to play vital role for downtrodden people, who are in crores across the country. Ambedkar reached to the hearts of marginalized people and strived for their lives and livelihoods of all sections such as students, employees, workers, political leaders etc. and influenced, continues to influence lakhs of people to work for social justice in the country. He facilitated our nation's direction towards modernity and has shown direction to many other nations to work for marginalized sections of society. He has gone down in the history as a chief architect of modern and democratic India. He will always influence and continue to inspire of futuristic political direction and social revolution in the country. ❖

Individual Enterprise



Floor Mill

Collective Enterprise



Spirulina Enterprise by Aurovillae Village Action Group (AVAG) in Pitchandikulam Forest

My Mom Had One Eye

There was a Kid who lived with his mother. Kid used to hate her mother because she had only one eye. He used to feel embarrassed. Mother used to work as cook to support the family and his kid studies.

One day mother went to kid school to meet him but kid was so embarrassed.

He thought to himself, "How could she do this to me?" He ignored her and ran out. Next day a boy from kids class commented to him, "EEEE, your mother have only one eye!!"

Kid was so embarrassed that he wanted his mother to disappear. That day after reaching home confronted his mother and said, "Because of you people make fun of me. Why don't you die?" Even after listening to this his mother didn't respond.

All his childhood kid just thought of getting out of that house anyhow. So, he studied hard and got a job abroad. There he got married, had kids and all the comforts and was very happy with his life away from his mother.

One day his mother came to visit him. She hadn't seen him since he left and for the first time she was going to meet her grand children. As she rang the bell and stood by the door her grand children opened the door and after seeing her they laughed at her not knowing who she is.

When his son came at door and saw her. He started screaming at her, "How can you come to my house uninvited and scare my kids. Get out now and never come again."



To this his mother replied, "Oh, I am so sorry. I may have gotten to wrong address." and left.

One day he got a letter from his college about reunion. He was excited to got here. After attending reunion he went to old shack. There his mother neighbor told him that she passed away and gave him a letter left for him.

He opened the letter and started reading it.

"My dearest son,

I think of you all the time. I miss you a lot. I am really sorry that I came to your house and scared your children. I was so glad to hear that you were gonna come back for reunion. I don't know if I will be able to get out of bed to see you.

I am sorry that I was a constant embarrassment when you were growing. You don't know that when you were little, you got into an accident and lost one of your eyes. As your mother I couldn't stand watching you to grow up having just one eye. So, I gave you mine. Take care my Dear. Love you."

Moral: You never know what your Parents had been through to see you Happy. So Never Judge them and Respect and Care for them Always. ❖

Social Enterprise



Water ATM
Smaat India Pvt Ltd, Karnataka

Important Day



22 May
International Day for Biological Diversity

Understanding Caste

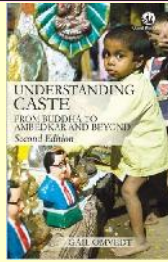
Name of the book: Understanding Caste: From Buddha to Ambedkar and Beyond.

Author: Gail Omvedt

Caste has been functioning for ages in India, and is a very complex social reality. Many scholars have tried to understand caste, but most have only partly succeeded. Understanding caste and its relation with the system is a scholarly work which requires rigorous study. Gail Omvedt, the author of this book, is a sociologist with an experience of over two decades in working in rural development, environment and gender in India.

The book explains the history of Hinduism from the beginning to the current era, and the flow of resistances and revolt against caste from Buddha to Ambedkar. It narrates how the hierarchal caste system evolved and its impact on society at various stages. It describes the oppressed communities' revolts to liberate themselves from this hierarchal system, and the changes that happened at each stage in the history. It explains how Dalit politics and vision required going beyond the word "Dalit", for being symbolic to all oppressed communities in this hierarchal caste based society.

It explains the anti-caste struggles of social revolutionaries, reformers and radical bhakti movement crusaders like Mahatma Jyothiba Phule, Periyar E. V. Rama Swamy, Rambai, Tarabai, Kabir, Tukaram and Ambedkar. It depicts the anti-caste tenets in Buddhism. It also elaborates on the achievements and failures of anti-caste struggles, which aimed to ensure equality and freedom for all human beings in the country by eliminating caste. It also explains Dalit politics and the rise of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in the Indian political field. This is one of the best books for those who want to understand Dalit movement and Indian hierarchal society. ❖

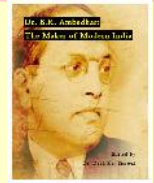


The Maker of Modern India

Editor: Desh Raj Sirswal

The book 'Dr BR Ambedkar: The Maker of Modern India' is a collection of 12 research papers on different aspects of Ambedkar philosophy, and discusses his contribution in the making of modern India. These research papers were written by academicians from different fields.

The book depicts different aspects of Ambedkar's philosophy such as struggle for human dignity, egalitarian society and Hindu society, new conception of man and society, social philosophy, democracy in India, liberty and equality and Ambedkar as a social reformer and his contribution in democratic rights' struggles in the country. This is one of the best books to understand various aspects of Ambedkar philosophy and his role in the history of India. ❖



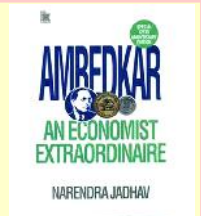
Ambedkar an Economist Extraordinaire

Author: Naredra Jadhav

The book 'Ambedkar an Economist Extraordinaire', describes Ambedkar's extraordinary contribution to the nation as an economist. Many of us know Ambedkar's contribution in various fields such as law, sociology, political science, anthropology and comparative religion.

But society has almost put aside, Ambedkar's part in the economic field. The book explains Ambedkar's contribution in the field of economics, particularly addressing to Indian economic problems. The book describes how Ambedkar was basically trained as an economist, and describes his economic thoughts through the various statements and speeches he had made. It explains how the Indian society has benefited by Ambedkar's thoughts in the economic field.

In this context, it is a good book to understand the genius of Ambedkar, not only as a human rights activist of the highest order, but also as a brilliant economist. ❖



e-links

VCA : <http://www.fao.org/3/a-az114e.pdf>

Sub-sector : <http://www.joyhecht.net/mulanje/refs/Kadale-honey-subsector-2005.pdf>

e-book : <https://cppispublications.files.wordpress.com/2016/04/dr-b-r-ambedkar-the-maker-of-modern-india2.pdf>

v-book : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_6sFLBzVN4

Supplements

Legendary Effort: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/540-supplementlegendary-efforttrmay-2016

Kshetram: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/539-supplementkshetramdeccan-plateaumay-2016

Livelihoods Management Notes: http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/541-supplementlivelihoods-management-notesmay-2016

e-course; e-livelihoods learning course : Capsule No: 278—294

e-course

http://www.aksharakriti.org/magazines/doc_download/538-e-coursemay-2016

‘Yoga’kshemam

May Day!

Happy Mothers' Day! Mathrudevo Bhava!

Happy Buddha Purnima!

Buddham Saranam Gachchaami, Dharmam Saranam
Gachchaami, Sangam Saranam Gachchaami.

Remembered Tagore and his Gitanjali.

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held
high*

Where knowledge is free

Into ever-widening thought and action

*Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my
country awake*

Let us be free, free from slavery of thoughts, words and
action.

Yoga and Dhyana are the key elements in
Buddhapatham. The benefits of yoga to us include:

- ♦ Improvement in our body flexibility
- ♦ Building our muscle strength
- ♦ Improvement in our postures
- ♦ Preventing cartilage and joint breakdown
- ♦ Protecting our spines
- ♦ Improving our bone health
- ♦ Increasing our blood flow, especially in hands and feet
- ♦ Increasing the drainage of our lymphs and boosting immunity
- ♦ Improves cardiovascular conditioning – lowering resting heart rate, increasing endurance, improving maximum uptake of oxygen
- ♦ Reducing our blood pressure
- ♦ Regulating our adrenal glands
- ♦ Making us happier
- ♦ Making us move more and eat less
- ♦ Lowering our blood sugar
- ♦ Helping us focus – focus on the present, improving coordination, reaction time, memory, etc.
- ♦ Relaxing our system and shifting the balance from the sympathetic nervous system (or the fight-or-flight response) to the calming and restorative parasympathetic nervous system.
- ♦ Increasing our ability to feel what our bodies are doing and where they are in the space and improving our balance.
- ♦ Maintaining our nervous system
- ♦ Releasing tension in our limbs, tongues, eyes, and the muscles of the face and neck

- ♦ Sleeping deeper and better
- ♦ Boosting immune system functionality
- ♦ Increasing lung room and breathing through the nose
- ♦ Preventing digestive problems
- ♦ Slowing down the mental loops of frustration, regret, anger, fear, and desire that can cause stress.
- ♦ Increasing our self-esteem and increased feelings of gratitude, empathy, and forgiveness, and sensing that we are part of something bigger.
- ♦ Reducing the body pains and making us more active
- ♦ Improving our inner strength
- ♦ Building awareness for transformation and increasing feelings of compassion and interconnection
- ♦ Supporting in improving relationships
- ♦ Soothing sinuses and facilitating drainage
- ♦ Controlling and guiding the body's healing through the mind and imagery
 - ♦ Keeping the allergies and viruses away to a large extent
 - ♦ Taking on service to others as it gives meaning to our lives
- ♦ Building self-care, and improving the power to effect change and offer hope
- ♦ Appreciating interconnectivity and holistic
- ♦ Believing and trusting

G Muralidhar

We meditate. We do Dhyana. We do Asanas. We practice Yoga. We seek. We seek freedom. We seek liberation. We seek oneness with the partners and with the universe. We seek Bliss. We seek togetherness in being, flowing, doing, celebrating and celebrating the life. We live the spirit of life together. Universe lives in us. This is yoga. This is nijayogam.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga.** If we reflect! If we meditate! If we focus! If we practice! If we surrender to the universe! If we believe! If we trust! If we are willing! If we are in now and here! Sanjaya reiterates that Krsna confirms that surrendered to the manifest, or to the unmanifest, reach the universe surely. Then, there will be victory, transformation and freedom. There will be wealth and well-being.

Yatra yogesvarah krsno yatra partho dhanur-dharah

Tatra srir vijayo bhutir dhruva nitir matir mama

Join us in the world of yoga –for improved living condition at present to each one of us individually; and for the transformation and freedom in the surrender to the universe –towards naranaraayanayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖



ALPL invites interns for six months in livelihoods and development sector. Interested candidates may please send your Curriculum Vitae to following e-mail id:

venkat.kolagari@gmail.com

aksharkriti@gmail.com

