A Multi-Dimensional Personality of Hoshangabad

Vidyulata Authey

Pacific University, Pacific Hills, Near pratapnagar Extension, Airport road, Debari, Udaipur-313003, Rajasthan, India

Abstract

According to the Architecture of the Constitution Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Dalits – are those who were treated as untouchables and subjected to socio-economic discrimination. Dalit word is derived from Marathi Language and was used mostly in Maharashtra. All those who are grinded into pieces or exploited by the people of so called upper caste or high-class society, tireless efforts of Dr. Authey raised a structure of NGO named Dalit Sangh. He played a major role in imparting education among Dalits.

1 Introduction of the personality

Awarded by ex-president Hon. Pratibha Patil in 2010 for his extraordinary work in the district, Dr. Gopal Narayan Authey becomes one of the different personalities. He is a deep thinker and has a great passion to work for humanity. He dedicated his life for a small change in this global world. Follower of Ambedkar ideology, he worked hard to implement his thoughts. Dr.B.R Ambedkar wrote the constitution, and Dr. Authey introduced it among the Dalit people of the area. He stood by them to struggle for their basic rights. He worked for more than 27 years for the emancipation of Dalits of Hoshangabad. Later on, he worked on various aspects of their lives like livelihood and education. Throughout this journey, he developed himself as a writer and published more than 60 books. He spread his work though a NGO, which he registered in 1996. After that, his work and the results motivated him to keep doing what he did.

Dr. Gopal Narayan Authey was born on 15th August 1954 at Jaora in District – Ratlam of Madhya Pradesh. He was the youngest Son of late Mr. Narayan Rao Authey and Dwarkabai. His father was an engineer in sugar mill at Jaora. His Father left the job due to ill health and settled at the peaceful place Sohagpur in District – Hoshangabad, which became the working area of Dr. Authey. He dreamt of community development during the struggling period of his life. In the society of late 1980s he faced many problems to make friendship with a boy of ‘Ahirwal’ Caste (known as lower caste in society, comes under the scheduled caste in constitution). During that period practice of caste discrimination, untouchability, poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, superstitions, veil (Parda) system was almost practiced in the interior places of Madhya Pradesh. This revolutionized his life and hence he decided to work for the emancipation of all the downtrodden people of his area. It is his inner-voice, honesty and hard work, which gave shape to his mission.

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By Dr. A. P. J. Kalam in his book target 3 billions (page 190-192)

As development of any Nation depends on its educational system, it is necessary to investigate that how far Dr. Authey has explored the pathways and reached the milestones to change the life of dalits of Hoshangabad district. Swami Vivekananda said, “The education which does not help the common mass of people to equip themselves for the struggle for life, which doesn’t bring out the courage of lion- is it worth name. Swami Vivekananda pronounced that, “The Nation Live in a Cottage and Education must go into the village.

In the words of Redden: EDUCATION is the deliberate and systematic influence, exerted by a mature person on immature, through instructions, discipline and harmonious, development of physical, intellectual, aesthetic, social, spiritual power of the human being. Dr. Authey applied this principle in his work of emancipation of Dalits. He instructed them like a master, It guided them like a friend; and stood by them like a relative.

2 History of education

The 1991 census of India reported that Dalit Communities were one of the least literate social group in the country with only 80% of Dalit Children recognized to have their basic reading and writing skills.

So Dr. Authey’s Mission was (and is still there): Imparting Education amongst Dalits. He worked on various aspects of Education like

1. To increase the income of impoverished people
2. To ensure that benefits of growth are experienced by all
3. To make individuals more productive in the work place and at home
4. To empower deprived groups socially and economically
5. To increase the participation of Dalits in politics and reformation in it
6. To generate social and economic equality
7. To improve the quality of life of Dalit people
8. To instill the instinct of dignity in them
9. To get legal protection whenever needed.
10. To raise their voice against harassment and discrimination done by so called higher class and upper caste people

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar the great Dalit leader and the father of Indian constitution have said, “In the complex world man lives at his peril, and his must find his way in it without losing his freedom. There came, under these circumstances be no freedom that is worthwhile, unless the mind is trained to use its freedom. Deprive a man of knowledge and you will make him inevitably the slave of those more fortunate than himself. Deprivation of knowledge is the denial of the power to use liberty for great ends. An ignorant man may be free, but cannot employ his freedom so as to give him assurance of happiness.

Dr. Authey’s work is examined and elevated by

1) Mrs. Seema Chouhan, who achieved a degree of M. Phil. in 2005 from Rani Durgawati University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India under the guidance of Dr. P. B. Gupta of sociology department. She presented her dissertation on the topic, analysis of modern literature in reference to the stories of Dr. Gopal Narayan Authey. In third chapter she gave a brief introduction of Dr. Authey’s life and the stories published by him. Mrs. Seema focused on the role of women in society as described by Dr. Authey in his stories.

2) Dr. Asmita Autey got her M. Phil degree in 2009. She worked on “The beauty in the poems of Dr. Gopal Narayan Authey.

3) Mrs. Damayanti Saini completed her thesis work for PhD in 2015 from Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. In her thesis she presented a comparative study of writers of Hoshangabad district.

4) In the book Target 3 billions, published by Penguin books, New Delhi, written by Dr. A. P. J. Kalam and Srijanpal Singh mentioned about Dr. Authey and his NGO Dalit sangh on page (190-192)

According to the writers, half of the world’s population- 3 billion people live below poverty line, seventy percent of the world’s poor live in rural areas. Target 3 billion encapsulates Dr. Kalams mission to eradicate poverty from the world. He recommends a sustainable and inclusive development system called PURA (providing urban amenities in rural areas). It is to uplift poor people not by subsidies but through entrepreneurship with community participation. To make his case Dr. Kalam cites the examples of individuals and institutions in India and across the world, who with an entrepreneurial spirit and a burning desire makes a difference, who have successfully generated and tapped into the potential of the rural masses. Dr. Autheys example in his book means a lots. It proves that Dr. Authey is an national Resource.

Dr. Authey surveyed and studied the communities and published the life stories and social, economic, cultural and educational status of ‘Mongia’- Broom Makers, ‘Pardhi’ – DNT Community and ‘Sapera’ – Snake Catchers.

3 Conclusions

Dr. Authey’s Life Experiences, his search for better tomorrow should not go in vain. Many can be influenced and motivated by various aspects of his work and life. His continuous efforts may
be a source of inspiration for many who are concerned to welfare of society specially DALITS.

4 Conflicts of Interests
We have not declared any conflict of interest.

5 Author’s contributions
VA carried out literature review and draft the manuscript.

6 References