



The Challenges of Development in India: with the special reference of The Dom Caste

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Abstract: *Development of India is a sum of development of its all dimensions and by this way we can't ignore the prospects of the development of the several scheduled castes and same is about the 'Dom' caste also.*

By the older inscriptions, we find that the position of 'Dom' caste was not such deprived. Although before seventh century AD, there is rare mention about The Dom as a caste. Firstly the caste is mentioned by Huen Tzang, the Chinese Buddhist pilgrim, who visited India during seventh century AD. But the account presented by Huen Tzang was very similar to the 'Mahattar' of villages. Just before Muslim invasion in India there is a position of 'Mahattar' who played very important role for the administration of the traditional villages of India and actually those 'Mahattar' were very important to connect with the total network of a particular monarch in India. Many scholars (Historian Prof Vimal Chandra Pandeya, Novelist Amrit Lal Nagar, Dev Datt Sharma Chaturvedi, etc.) have been mentioned that these 'Mahattar' are now converted as Dom or Mahattar by the pig hater Arabian Invaders, who were very jealous to the pig lover Mahattars of then India. Although there are more dimensions of this conversion from a higher position to deprived one, which will be discussed one to one in this paper.

Key Words: Mahayana, Special Features, Postulations, Special theorization, Universal, Buddhist.

Even Prof G S Ghurye, P V Kane and W Crook had been wrote that the position of Dom was not as untouchable and those were enjoying rather than a higher position in Indian society as a part of the system of the ruling mechanism of monarchies of that time till just before the invasions, which were started frequently after tenth century A D.

The History : The Glorious Past-

Ancient text of India are not aware about the word Dom and from the tenth century A D, there are rather than frequent mentions about the caste of Dom.

Albaruni, Hemchandra and Kalhan etc are the pioneer scholars, who mentioned about Doms with a significant account. But these mentions are also not perfect to make a proper conception about Dom caste and its position in the social system of then India. Because while Alba-runi mentions criticizing, the Doms but near about at the same era Kalhan in his book 'Raj-Taragini' mention the

interesting story of the then King of Kashmir-Chakraverman and her Dom Queen 'Hansi'. We find by the account of the 'Raj Taragini' that there was no debate or any controversy against the wedding of the King with a Dom girl Hansi. Even we see that the heir of the kingdom was the son of Hansia nd the king Chakraverman and there was no controversy, which indicates a very good position of Doms in India and even by the mentions of 'W. Crook' in his 'Landmarks in Indian Anthropology' we can find an indication that there is an understand-ing in the Kashmir that the 'Dongra' rajputs are the actual forefathers of those 'Doms' who de-feated by Arab invaders and who were not eager to accept the defeat, those were converted as this deprived position.

The idiom, ' Maar Maar ke Bhangi Bana Dunga' is also indicating that the existence of being a 'Bhangi' is created by torturing to the people, who were not actually a person of 'Bhangi'



position.

W Crook, in his creation 'Landmarks in Indian Anthropology' is also supporting this by the reference of SIR H. M. Elliot that there were several forts of 'Dom' kings in Gorakhpur and their names were- Domingarh, Domdeeha, Shahankot etc.

In this context we have to remember that before muslim invasion there were several states of the kings of the castes who are are now considered as untouchables or as too much backwards. We can mention their names as - Maharaja Suheldeo Rajbhar of Bahraich who even killed Saiyad Salar Masaud Gazi, a close relative of Mahmud Gaznawi. Maharaja Bijali Pasi of Lucknow. Maharani Durgawati of Gondwana etc.

Before Independence: The Deprived Status- After these invasions the descendants of Dom were never accepted the dominance of Muslims or of British. So their deprivation was continued and till the independence of India during 1947, the Dom caste was the most deprived community.

But after the independence of India the Article 341 of the Constitution of India played vital role for the Dom people to get rid of the misery, ignorance, weakness and the deprivation. Now there are several provisions to remove the untouchability , poverty, ignorance, devrivation, inequality, injustice etc.

Conclusion - More Efforts Needed : After all these efforts there are the need of more attempts and attention to strengthen this very important segment of Indian society because by the strengthening the all segments of Indian society, we can hope to develop whole India as a integrated society. It is more needed because the empowerment of scheduled caste should be decentralized towards the most deprived caste like Dom, while the empowerment programs are often could not make

reach to actually needy sections of society like Dom caste. We can hope that in future te Dom caste will achieve their empowered status and will play vital role to solve the challenges of the development of India.

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