ABSTRACT

In the wake of industrialisation human problems always follow. Such problems have many facets, one of them being the problem of providing adequate welfare for those who work.

Labour welfare is neither philanthropy nor charity. It is a system which seeks to upgrade the quality of life of people through appropriate statutory and voluntary mechanisms. It is a method of creating more satisfying working and living conditions for men and women employed in organised and un-organised sectors, of increasing worker's sense of involvement in the objectives of the enterprise, and of motivating them to lend a willing hand to the development of the country.

The situation is all the more complex in India where welfare must simultaneously meet the demands of social justice, political democracy as well as the needs of a developing economy.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a builder of modern India, chief architect of India’s Constitution and emancipator of ignored humanity, has left an indelible mark on the history of mankind, felt as his duty to do as much as possible to improve the conditions of the working class.

Dr. Ambedkar was born in the dust of the caste system and rose to a very high status through enormous efforts and by suffering
unkind bitterness. His scholarship, pedantry and character are reflected in his multi-faceted personality.

As a labour leader and as an Economist Dr. Ambedkar highly contributed in the field of 'labour welfare'. But this personality of Dr. Ambedkar, however, does not seem to have attracted enough attention. He extensively contributed to various economic themes and labour welfare programmes which included theoretical issues as well as concrete economic and labour problems. His ideas reflected not only unique freshness but also his deep insights into the problems. He approached and examined the problems with such foresight that his analysis and treatment of some of them is very much relevant even today.

Considerable research has been done on the social, political and constitutional contributions of Dr. Ambedkar. But it could be observed that his thoughts on 'Labour Welfare and Economics' have not received the attention they deserve.

The present study entitled "A Jurisprudential study of Labour Welfare and Dr. Ambedkar's Vision in the 21st Century" is an attempt to discuss the systematic and conceptual study of labour welfare and different approaches regarding to it and to search out Dr. Ambedkar's relentless efforts towards labour welfare programmes which has been neglected by contemporary scholars. Dr. Ambedkar's
thoughts on Economics are also covered in the present study. Evaluation of the approach adopted by the judiciary and the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's views in the present scenario is also the part of this Research Work. A comparative analysis of Dr. Ambedkar's Production Function and Gandhian Production Function is also covered under the present study.

The present study is doctrinal research. So the materials relevant to the study has been analysed. The case law laid down by the courts on the subject has also been examined. The Reports, Journals, Newspaper and Surveys have been consulted. The proceedings of the Seminars, Conferences, Workshop and Symposia have been utilized. And for the sake of convenience the present study has been divided into seven chapters so as to give a complete idea of Dr. Ambedkar's thinking on labour welfare and his Economics.

Chapter - First deals with the meaning, definition, scope of labour welfare and related provisions in the Constitution of India. It also deals with the philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar in respect of labour welfare.

Chapter - Second of the study covers Dr. Ambedkar's contributions to labour welfare laws. It also covers all such labour welfare legislations which were passed in the light of Dr. Ambedkar's views.
Dr. Ambedkar was a man of Economics. He wrote thesis covering Indian economic problems in British regime. Chapter third tries to show how bold were these works and explains their relevance in today's context. The same chapter also covers Dr. Ambedkar's strategy to economic development and evils of economics of caste system and its impact on labourers.

Chapter - Fourth deals with Dr. Ambedkar's vision on organised and unorganised labourers. It discusses the efforts that were made by Dr. Ambedkar to improve the economic and working conditions of all type of labourers.

Another Chapter namely Chapter – Fifth deals with the judicial response towards labour welfare and economic justice. It also covers such pronouncements in which judiciary adopted directly or indirectly Dr. Ambedkar's approach relating to labour welfare and economic justice.

Chapter - Sixth has three parts. Part – A deals with the welfare and economic justice approach of Dr. Ambedkar and its reflection on the Indian constitution. While Part – B discusses the comparative study of Ambedkar's Production Function and Gandhian Production Function. The last part that is Part – C covers the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts in the present economic globalisation.
In the end, Chapter - Seventh tries to portray how Dr. Ambedkar is relevant today. It concludes the ideas expressed in the present study along with suggestions to complete the dreams of Labour Reformer and Great Economist Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, in the light of modern trend of liberalisation and globalisation.