



Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research & Training Institute (BARTI), Pune

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Maharashtra in the
Department of Social Justice & Special Assistance)



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Dear Applicant,

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute is an autonomous Institute of the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance, Government of Maharashtra. The institute was established in the year 1978 under the name “Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samata Vichar Peeth” and subsequently became autonomous under its present name in the year 2008.

BARTI identifies research as an integral part of its constituting mission. It also identifies certain areas of research as key to its mission of fostering social justice and equity in the society. The indicative areas are listed in the appendix. The list however is not exhaustive but representative of the kind of research that BARTI envisages to encourage. We recommend all research scholars to go through this list carefully.

The BARTI Research Department identifies and carries out research in areas that require inquiry and in-depth analysis from the vantage point of Social Justice and Equity and related fields. It prescribes policy level suggestions and takes up awareness programmes through action research projects.

BARTI grants various fellowships to research fellows of the state of Maharashtra in sciences and social sciences to encourage original research.

BARTI is keen to support the candidates with academic excellence and methodologically sound research projects pertaining to social justice, equity and the related fields. Above all we want to support research that helps in taking forward Dr. Ambedkar’s mission of creating a more equal society and a stronger nation. We want our Fellowship Awardees to be keenly aware of social issues facing our society, particularly backward communities.

Candidates who are invited to appear for interviews may be asked to answer a short written examination comprising of Multiple choice Questions (MCQs) on the day of the interview for the fellowship. The questions will be asked from the areas including the following:

Life and work of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Jotirao Phule ,Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj, Savitribai Phule, Sahityaratna- Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe, Vithhal Ramji Shinde, Agarkar, Prabodhankar Thakare, Shivaji Maharaj , Basweshwar ,Sant Gadage Baba, Sant Kabir, Sant Tukaram ,Guru Nanak, Buddha and other social reformers

- Important writings of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
- Basics of the Constitution
- Aspects of Social Justice and equity in the constitution
- Dr Ambedkar and Hindu Code Bill
- Scientific temperament and Scientific Method
- Structure and importance of Democracy, Secularism
- Human Development Index
- Mandal Commission: Findings and Recommendations.
- Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission
- Minority Issues: Sachar Commission findings and recommendations
- Backward Communities and Private Sector
- Labour Movement and Unorganized Sectors
- Gender Issues and gender equality
- Women Empowerment, Intercaste Marriage.
- Care of aged parents and senior citizens
- Caste – A myth
- Law against Jadu Tona (Black Magic/ Superstition)
- Snake Bite – Removal of Myths and Superstitions – Myth and Reality
- Social Security of Domestic Servants
- Social Security of Construction Workers
- Social Security of Safai Karamcharis
- Prevention of Atrocities Act
- Equity – The foundation of nation's progress.
- Women Labourers and Social Security
- Save the girl child
- Women Security
- Human Rights and Privacy Issues in Internet Era.
- Any area of Social justice, equity, liberty and social reforms
- General knowledge.

This is to assess the level of awareness and concern in the candidates in issue areas related to social justice. As an institute working in the field of Equity and Social justice BARTI expects its prospective fellows to be well versed in basic concepts and related events in this field.

We are also laying down the "**Key Research Areas**" identified by the institute. It should also be noted that the applicants applying for the following fellowships - BANRF, SPNRF, JPNRF, CSNRF & GBNRF need not strictly adhere to the "**Key Research Areas**". Though the institute does not make it a mandatory list, excellent proposals on these areas shall be given a greater weightage. However, this does not mean that mere selection of one of the areas in the list will be considered as criteria for selection.

Important : However the applicants applying for Babasaheb Ambedkar Samatha Research Fellowship (BASRF) which is open for all candidates belonging to Maharashtra the "**Key Research Areas**" identified by the institute are guiding areas for building their research proposals. Hence the research topics of the applicants applying for BASRF should be related to the "**Key Research Areas**" of **BARTI**.

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

This list is not exhaustive. It is representative of the kind of research that BARTI envisages to encourage. We encourage research in all areas connected to Social Justice and Equity and therefore recommend all applicants to go through this list carefully.

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

1. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's intellectual legacy of social, political and economic reform and its impact on intellectuals, bureaucrats, technocrats, politicians, judges, social reformers, leaders, industrialists, educationalists, and thinkers within India and throughout the world.
2. Affirmative Action in global context, in the light of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's pioneering work on human rights.
3. The impact of the pioneering work of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the field of human dignity, against caste discrimination in India and on United Nations' Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
4. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's role in the formation of Reserve Bank of India, his contribution in the field of economics, and its impact and relevance in today's economic context.
5. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's studies and contributions in the field of Philosophy and Anthropology and its impact and relevance in today's context.
6. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's unpublished writings, speeches and teachings.
7. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's contributions to Journalism for the cause of Equity, Social Justice, Brotherhood and Human Rights and its impact on present journalism.
8. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's studies and thoughts pertaining to Agriculture, Irrigation, Legal and Economic reforms, Centre-State relations, Foreign Policies, etc. and their relevance in the present context.
9. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's unparalleled sincerity and morality and his struggle during his student life and its relevance to present day youths.

OTHER SOCIAL REFORMERS:

1. Social reformers / activists who were contemporary to and associated with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, their struggle for Human Rights, Social Justice, Equity and Brotherhood in India.
2. Contribution of Jotiba Phule in the area of Developing the Scientific Temperament, Removal of Caste Bias, Equity, Social Justice and Communal Harmony.
3. Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule– Champion of Women’s Education in India.
4. Contribution of Rajarshri Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj in the area of Developing Scientific Temperament, Removal of Caste Bias and Communal Harmony.
5. Impact of Satyashodhak Samaj on Shahu Maharaj.
6. Contribution of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad in the area of Developing Scientific Temperament, Removal of Caste Bias and Communal Harmony, Gender Equality and Education.
7. Contribution of Lokshahir Annbhau Sathe in the area of Developing Scientific Temperament through Literature and Cultural activities.
8. Contribution of Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad in the Ambedkarite movement. His contributions to land reforms.
9. Impact of Phule’s Ideology on Ambedkar and the Indian Constitution
10. Satyashodhak Samaj today - Reimagination of an Ideal Society.
11. Tarabai Shinde and other women social reformers: Life and Works
12. Emperor Ashoka's exemplary Governance system through adoption of Buddha’s teachings of non-violence, peace, harmony, and brotherhood and thereby, its direct and indirect contributions to Equity, Social Justice and Communal Harmony.
13. Freedom fighters from socially disadvantaged sections of society such as Narveer Umaji Naik, Ustad Lahuji Salve and others.
14. Teachings and guiding principles of social reformers and saints in Maharashtra in bringing about Equity, Social Justice, Brotherhood and in Removing the Caste Bias.

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ON VARIOUS CASTES AMONG SCs in MAHARASHTRA

1. Ethnographic research of certain castes in Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Vimukt Jati and Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Classes in Maharashtra, whose documentation is poor or not available.

REPRESENTATION OF SC's IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR

1. Efforts of Public Sector Undertakings for development of Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections of society to achieve Triple Bottom Impact (Social Impact, Economical Impact and Environmental Impact).
2. Occupation of reserved seats by Scheduled Caste Communities in different Govt. and Semi-Govt. sectors.
3. Representation of various Scheduled Caste communities in various Private Sectors.
4. Representation of Scheduled Castes and Marginalized Castes (within Scheduled Castes) in Higher and Technical Education, Medical Education, Industries, Corporate Houses, Media, Govt. / Semi-Govt. Organizations, etc. and the reasons for inadequate representation.

SOCIO- ECONOMIC STATUS OF SC COMMUNITY

1. Socio-economic and educational status of Marginalized Castes (within Scheduled Castes).
2. Skill gaps and unemployment in Scheduled Caste youths and relevant Skill Development programs which can increase their employability or entrepreneurship.
3. Improving the delivery systems in government services related to various development schemes being implemented for Scheduled Castes.
4. Status of health and education of Scheduled Caste Women in Maharashtra
5. Status and use of agriculture land holdings and cropping pattern in different regions of Maharashtra of Scheduled Caste families.
6. Gender Inequality at home, workplace, educational institutes, in formal and informal sectors, etc. among Scheduled Caste communities.
7. Role of migration and urbanization in the development of Scheduled Castes.
8. Impact of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on SC's and weaker sections of society.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

1. Various spheres of Equity, Social Justice and Brotherhood with an aim to find out how and in what manner the concept of Equity and Social Justice can be better understood and brought into practice effectively.
2. Social Justice and Gender Equality: Rethinking Development Strategies.
3. Senior Citizens in the changing family status: Challenges and the way forward.

CASTE ATROCITIES AND THEIR PREVENTION

1. Implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
2. Caste Atrocities – their changed nature/ agents and response mechanism. Comparison of implementation and experiences between various states.
3. Situation of SC prisoners in Maharashtra.

PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND BACKWARD CLASSES

1. Access/ Impact of paid seats. Professional Courses vs. Reservations.

SLUM INHABITATIONS

1. Social, Educational, Economic and psychological dynamics in Scheduled Caste populations in slum habitations in Maharashtra.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

1. Budget Analysis of Local Bodies (PRIs and ULBs) keeping in view the mandatory provisions/guidelines for development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
2. Women in Urban Local Government: A Study of Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra.
3. Gender Budgeting : A strategy to achieve Gender Equality.

SUPERSTITION, DISCRIMINATION, CASTE BIAS vs. PROGRESSIVE VALUES

1. Extent of awareness and understanding of the basic principles of the Constitution and its impact on Equity and Social Justice in various groups such as students, teachers, government officers, elected representatives, technocrats, industrialists, scientists, etc.
2. Scientific Temperament among school teachers and its impact on students.
3. Impact of inter caste marriages on reduction of Caste Bias.
4. Impact of Scientific Temperament on mental and physical health of various Target groups, Scheduled Castes in particular.
5. Prevalent superstitions and blind faith in various Scheduled Caste communities in Maharashtra and efforts required for eradication for the same.
6. Economic impact of superstitions on Scheduled Castes and Marginalized Castes (within Scheduled Castes).
7. Caste discrimination among Scheduled Castes and its impact on Equity and Social Justice.
8. Attitudes towards women in the changing era of globalization, urbanization and industrialization.

STATUS OF BACKWARD COMMUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS

1. Prevalence of Jaat Panchayats
2. Institutional mechanisms at village levels to address social inequality and caste bias
3. Inclusion of Backward Communities for Social Cohesion through Panchayati Raj.

WOMEN AND WORK AND EQUALITY

1. Assessment of Gendered Wage Gap in Casual Workers in Various Sectors of Employment
2. Women as Flexible Labour/ Piece rate workers
3. Assessment of Women's nature of work from WC (Washington Consensus) to PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) policy.
4. Women Farmers/ Agricultural Labourers
5. Women and Access to Finance Capital- Scheme Specific/ Initiative Specific/ Individual Case Studies
6. Recreation of Gendered Nature of Work in the Modern MNC
7. Women's Work and Biology- Reproduction and Patterns of Employment
8. Disjunction between Growth and Employment
9. Unemployment among Scheduled Caste women.
10. Potential of SHGs of Scheduled Caste Women and Microfinance to bring social, educational and economic empowerment of Scheduled Caste women.
11. Women's economic contribution through their unpaid work.
12. Disability and Vulnerability : A study of Female Persons with Disability

11. LABOUR MARKET REGULATION / CONTRACTUALIZATION

1. **Contractualisation in various sectors and its impact on backward communities**
2. **Construction workers:**

Evaluation of Housing/ Crèche Facilities and Access to Cess fund

Unskilled workers in the health sector

Safety measures, Training in safety measures

Health and nutrition

Migration patterns

Composition of caste

Responsibility of employer

c. Sanitation Workers

Health and medical checkup

Laws and their implementation

d. Domestic Workers

Unskilled Workers in Health Sector and Their Issues

e. Privatization of PSU's and the effect on implementation of Workers' Rights

RETIRED DEFENCE PERSONNEL AND THEIR STANDING ON VARIOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICES

1. Retired defence personnel and their standing on various socio- economic indices.
2. Families of defence personnel from backward communities.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

VARIOUS ACTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION SUCH AS

1. THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) ACT.
2. THE PROHIBITION OF EMPLOYMENT AS MANUAL SCAVENGERS AND THEIR REHABILITATION ACT,2013.
3. THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, 2005.

Privatization and Its Effect on Backward Communities

1. Representation of enterprises of Scheduled Caste owners / Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs and their contribution for development of Scheduled Castes.
2. Socio-economic problems of Scheduled Caste students pursuing primary, secondary, graduation, post-graduation, and higher studies.

Reach of Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives from Public Sector for development of Backward Classes.

- Who does it benefit?
- Transparency

Use of Public Property (Land) by NGOs, Charities and private enterprises

Use of Revenue Land for Housing projects and Caste Composition of Occupants

Religion and Social Justice

1. Exploitation in the name of Tradition : Present status of Devadasis

Reservation and Affirmative Action

1. Affirmative action's in various countries
2. Perception and reality about reservations
3. Perception and reality about condition of backward communities
4. Perception about reservation as against private institutes
5. Comparative study in the field of social justice in other states

Media and Backward Communities

Representation of backward communities in print and visual media. Representation of backward communities in various fields of fine arts, governmental and non-governmental bodies of artists, in various awards and prizes in the field of art.

Financial Inequality and Its Implications

1. Social(Im) mobility and persistence of Caste Occupations
2. Economics of Discrimination
3. Peasant Organizations in India
4. Land Acquisition and the Caste Question- whose land is acquired? / how?/ What are the possibilities post the acquisition.?
5. Mid- day meal/ Food Politics- Caste and Nutrition
6. Global Slavery Index- children in bonded slavery in India- their social background.

Socio- Economic Indices:

Preparation of Socio-Educational-Economic Indices that can give cogent picture of Scheduled Castes in general and Marginalized Castes (within Scheduled Castes) in particular. These Indices have to present a clear picture / status of "Scheduled Castes" and "Marginalized Castes (within Scheduled Castes)" on issues like Health, Education, Employment, Self-Employment, IMR, deprivations, Basic Amenities like Housing, Water supply, Sanitation, Electricity and other issued related to socio-educational economic development of SCs. This could be in the form of a traditional "Human Development Index" or "Deprivation Index" or "Diversity Index". These Indices should be such that they can be used at intervals to assess the social, educational and economic status of target groups. This research will require holistic surveys, high range of data collection and data mining exercises, intensive interaction with target and marginalized groups, syndication with relevant Research Organizations / Experts into theory and practice, preparation and development of indices and ascertaining their reliability and validity.

Science and Technology in the Cause of Social Justice and Equity

How and in what manner certain fields of Sciences / Engineering & Technology / IT based tools could be used for achieving Equity and Social Justice / Brotherhood / Development of socially and educationally backward sections. Research project in the fields of Sciences / Engineering & Technology should be designed in such a way that their findings and recommendations, if implemented, can bring about a clear, practicable and measurable improvement in terms of Social Impact, Economic Impact and Environmental Impact (as these target groups are the primary stakeholders of natural resources).