



DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR NATIONAL
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
(BANRF-2017)

GUIDELINES & OTHER DETAILS

BARTI
RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY | NATIONAL INTEGRATION | PEACE | JUSTICE FOR WOMEN

Est 2013



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GUIDELINES
(BANRF-2017)

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR NATIONAL
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR RESEARCH & TRAINING INSTITUTE, (BARTI) -PUNE

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research & Training Institute (BARTI), Pune is an autonomous Institute of Govt. of Maharashtra, in the Department of Social Justice and Special Assistance, 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 is committed for the cause of Equity, Social justice, Brotherhood, Removal of Caste bias, Developing Scientific Temperament and Ethics and Moral Values and achieving progress in these areas through scientific research.

DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (BANRF) - 2017

INTRODUCTION

In 1913, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar undertook a historic journey to Columbia University, New York for Higher Studies. In grateful commemoration of this, BARTI launched Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Research Fellowship (BANRF) in 2013. The fellowships are open to Scheduled Castes (SC) candidates belonging to Maharashtra, who wish to pursue regular and fulltime M. Phil and Ph.D degrees, in any subject, from Indian Universities / Institutions / Colleges approved under UGC.

Year 2014 marked 101 years of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s historic journey to Columbia. In commemoration of this, One Hundred and One (101) M.Phil. / Ph.D. fellowships were awarded in the year 2014. The number of fellowships awarded each year would be equivalent to the number of years since 1913 i.e. 101 for 2014, 102 for 2015 and so on.

Against the above background, 2017 marks 104 years of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s historic journey to Columbia University, New York for Higher Studies. Hence this year 104 fellowships are to be awarded. This number may increase/decrease depending on the decided merit for selection of fellows.

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. Babasaheb 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.

OBJECTIVE

1. The objective of this award is to provide fellowships to the students belonging to SC category to pursue higher studies leading to M.Phil. And Ph.D. degrees (full-time) in Indian Universities / Institutions / Colleges approved under UGC.
2. Bring visibility to the issues of such extended and discriminated caste groups and thereby draw attention of the government, for appropriate policy formulation and intervention.

ELIGIBILITY

1. The SC candidates belonging to the state of Maharashtra, who have passed the Post- Graduation examination in the concerned discipline and who desire to pursue full-time research without JRF of UGC-NET or UGC-CSIR NET or RGNF or any other fellowship.
2. Candidates applying for M. Phil must have their Admission/Registration on or after 1st June, 2016. Those who have been admitted/registered for M. Phil before 1st June, 2016, will not be eligible to apply for BANRF-2017.
3. Candidates applying for Ph.D. must have their Registration on or after 1st January, 2016. Those who have registered for Ph.D. before 1st January, 2016, will not be eligible to apply for BANRF-2017.
4. Candidates not Registered/admitted for M. Phil/ Ph.D., can also apply for BANRF-2017, subject to the conditions that, applicant must have qualified at least one exam i.e. M. Phil/ PET/ SET/ NET/ GATE/GPAT. Failing to fulfil the same or produce proper supporting documents, will be debarred from application/ short listing/ selection process.
5. Applicants working as permanent employees in Private/Public/Semi Govt./Govt. sectors can also apply subject to the condition, applicant will be considered eligible only after furnishing Resignation letter & Relieving letter from the concerned organization. However, the actual payment of fellowship will be made with effect from the date of joining only.
6. Age of applicant should not exceed more than, 55 years as on 15th July, 2017.

RESERVATIONS:

1. 50% of fellowships are reserved for SC women candidates.
2. 3% of fellowships are reserved for SC persons with disability.

TENURE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For M. Phil –

(Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Junior Research Fellowship (BANJRF) for 2 years

1. The tenure of fellowship for M. Phil. is 2 years which will be considered from date of Admission/ Registration. No further extension is entertained.
2. The tenure of the fellowship will be counted from the date of registration/admission to M. Phil, and the fellowship will be given as below:

From the date of Registration/ Admission to M. Phil, till Date of selection/ Date of award letter	50% of fellowship amount per month (Without HRA & Contingency) (In case of working candidate/ availing financial support from other sources, no 50% will be provided.)
From selection/ date of award letter for the remaining period of 2 years or the date of submission of dissertation whichever is earlier.	100% of fellowship amount per month with HRA & Contingency

3. In case of candidates, joining the fellowship after the date of awarding fellowship, due to reasons like holding a job/any other difficulties, will be eligible for the fellowship after submitting Joining Report. In such cases fellowship will be given for the remaining tenure from the date of joining the fellowship.
4. In case a selected applicant is working as permanent/ temporary employee in Private/ Public/ Semi Govt. he/ she will be considered eligible only after he/she resigns and furnishes a relieving letter from concerned organization. However, the actual payment of fellowship will be made with effect from the date of joining, and will be for the remaining tenure.

For Ph.D.-

(Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Junior Research Fellowship (BANJRF) for 1st & 2nd Year and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Senior Research Fellowship (BANSRF) for 3rd year of Ph.D. from date of award of Fellowship.

1. The tenure of fellowship for Ph.D. is 3 years which will be considered from date of awarding fellowship. No further extension is entertained.
2. The actual benefits of fellowship will be disbursed from the date of awarding fellowship up to 3 years or the date of thesis submission whichever is earlier.
3. In case of candidates, joining the fellowship after the date of awarding fellowship, due to reasons like holding a job/any other difficulties, will be eligible for the fellowship after submitting Joining Report. The actual payment of fellowship will be made with effect from the date of joining the fellowship, and will be for the remaining tenure.
4. In case a selected applicant is working as permanent/ temporary employee in Private/ Public/ Semi Govt. he/ she will be considered eligible only after he/she resigns and furnishes a relieving letter from concerned organization. However, the actual payment of fellowship will be made with effect from the date of joining the fellowship, and will be for the remaining tenure.
5. Upgradation from JRF to SRF - Research progress to be evaluated, for which interview shall be conducted by a three-member committee constituted by University/ Dept./Institute. The recommendations of the constituted Committee shall be considered to decide upon the enhancement of fellowship emoluments from BANJRF to BANSRF.

Integrated M.Phil. / Ph.D. programme.

BARTI has no policy of integrated M.Phil. / Ph.D. programme (2+3 years), In case, the selected candidate is pursuing an integrated M.Phil. / Ph.D. programme (2+3 years), selection for M.Phil. does not imply selection for Ph.D. fellowship automatically. He/she has to apply for Ph.D. Fellowship through a separate application after completion of M.Phil.

NATURE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE SCHEME

Fellowship in Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, Engineering & Technology	M.Phil	@ Rs. 25000/- p.m. for 2 years	(BANJRF)
	Ph.D	@ Rs. 25000/-p.m. for 1 st & 2 nd year	(BANJRF)
		@ Rs. 28000/- p. m. for 3 rd year subject to providing upgradation certificate.	(BANSRF)
Contingency A	@ Rs. 10000/- p.a. for initial 1 st & 2 nd year		Humanities & Social Sciences
	@ Rs. 20500/- p.a. for 3 rd year		
Contingency B	@ Rs. 12000/- p.a. for initial 1 st & 2 nd year		Sciences, Engg. & Technology
	@ Rs. 25000/- p.a. for 3 rd year		
Escorts/Reader assistance	@ Rs. 2000/- p.m. in case of physically handicapped & blind candidates		For all disciplines
HRA	As per rules of the University/ Institutions		For all disciplines

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

1. The selected fellow will have to undertake full-time research work under the approved guide in a subject selected by him and approved by the university/selection committee.
2. The research topic for which the Fellowship (BANRF) will be granted cannot be changed during the tenure of availing BANRF fellowship.
3. Any change in Fellow's funding status should be brought to BARTI's notice immediately. The fellow is not allowed to accept or hold any paid appointment, full time, part time or on Clock Hour Basis (CHB), or receive emoluments, salary, stipend, fellowship etc. from any other source during the tenure of the award. In case of breaching, BARTI will discontinue his /her funding without any notice and fellowship already paid will be liable to be recovered from the fellow.
4. The candidate may assist the departments academic activities, including tutorials, evaluation of test papers, laboratory demonstration work, seminar symposia etc., provided the candidate has the consent of the guide / Head of Department and such engagement is not likely to hamper his/her research work.
5. The candidate will have to come for discussion on any matter related to his/her research whenever BARTI contacts him/her. Additionally, you are required to attend certain

workshops, seminars to be organized by BARTI during the fellowship tenure at one's own expenses.

6. If the candidate wishes to surrender the fellowship during the tenure, it should be done with the prior approval of BARTI. However, you will have to pay back the Fellowship, HRA and Contingency amount and any other benefit given to you under BANRF, till the date of surrender or the amount decided by the Director General, BARTI.
7. In case the fellow wishes to give up the fellowship after/ during final selection, the fellow has to do so within a period of one month after final selection.

DISBURSEMENT/RELEASE OF FELLOWSHIP/CONTINGENCY/HRA:

1. The awardee is required to submit the following documents to BARTI at the stipulated period/interval:
2. Joining report in the prescribed proforma Annexure - **I**
3. Half yearly submission of progress report in the prescribed proforma Annexure - **II**
4. Details of the expenditure incurred out of the contingency grant to be submitted annually in the prescribed proforma. Annexure - **III**
5. The claim towards HRA is subject to the annual submission of HRA certificate in the prescribed proforma Annexure - **IV**
6. After completion of two years of award of fellowship an 'Upgradation Certificate' and evaluation report of three-member Committee to be submitted by the Ph. D scholars in the prescribed proforma Annexure -**V**.
7. Depending on the six monthly progress report, a six months' fellowship amount will be released.
8. Details of Monthly Attendance to be submitted for the period of the progress report submitted.
9. The contingency amount will be released only when the candidate submits original valid bills of purchase of books, typing, stationary, chemical & electrical goods, any other product required for research.

The fellowship/contingency/HRA amount will be released/deposited in one/two months after submission of the above documents in the prescribed proforma. (Formats will be provided once selected)

PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME

For Not Registered Candidates

1. The candidate is required to register for M.Phil / Ph.D within the next two years from the receipt of award letter.
2. Please note that the process of registration must be completed before the aforesaid date. i.e. you must have a letter from your respective University acknowledging your registration. Any situation, other than this such as pending registration, awaiting registration etc. will not be taken into consideration.
3. On receipt of the Registration Letter from your respective University, you will need to submit a copy of the same to BARTI.
4. Your claim on the fellowship will automatically lapse in case you fail to personally visit BARTI and submit a copy of your registration letter.
5. The Fellowship (BANRF) is granted to you for the research topic you have submitted to BARTI, through your research proposal. In case your research topic / theme changes marginally, in that case during the course of your registration, you must bring to BARTI's notice before such changes. The decision on whether to continue the fellowship or not will be taken by BARTI and decision of BARTI on the matter will be final.
6. Your fellowship process will commence only after you have submitted a copy of registration letter to BARTI as narrated above.

RELEASE OF LAST THREE MONTH'S FELLOWSHIP :

The last three months' instalment will be released only after the candidate submits his/her copy of Research thesis /dissertation to BARTI.

1. In case of M. Phil, the candidate will be given additional "6 months" period for submission of research thesis after 2 years of the fellowship tenure, failing which the last three months' fellowship stands to be cancelled.
2. In case of Ph.D., the candidate will be given additional 2 years' time after the fellowship tenure of 3 years for submission of the research thesis, failing which the last three months' fellowship stands to be cancelled

CANCELLATION OF AWARD:

Fellowship awarded is liable to be cancelled, in case of:

1. Misconduct
2. Presenting fake documents/ Information
3. Holding a job / Availing any other fellowship while availing fellowship from BARTI
4. Unsatisfactory progress of research work.
5. Not doing full time M. Phil /Ph.D.

BARTI may add additional terms and conditions as and when required in future and it will be binding on the Fellow to accept the additional terms and conditions.

In case of dispute the decision of Director General BARTI will be final and will be accepted by the candidate. With regard to cancellation of the fellowship, the decision of Director General, BARTI will be final and binding on you.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS
FOR CANDIDATES

PROCESS OF APPLICATION

1. Candidates are required to have a valid personal email ID and Contact No. It should be kept active till completion of this selection process. BARTI may send call letters regarding further process through the registered email ID. In case, a candidate does not have a valid personal email ID, he/she should create his/ her new email ID before applying Online.
2. New user can register by using valid Email id and password. A system generated mail will be sent to the candidate's email ID specified as a system generated acknowledgement on successful registration mentioning candidates Email ID and Password. Candidate should note down Email id and password.
3. After successful registration of candidate, he/she can begin with online application by login in with registered e mail id and password. In case, the candidate is unable to fill in the application form in one attempt, he/ she can save the data already entered. User can reopen the saved data using registered email id and password and edit the particulars, if needed. This facility will be available till candidate click on "**FINAL SUBMIT**" button.
4. Once the application is filled in completely, candidate should submit the form. After submitting form system will generate Online Application Number, which will be conveyed through e-mail which can be used for future reference.
5. Candidates are advised to carefully fill in the online application themselves as no change in any of the data filled in the online application will be entertained later on. Prior to submission of the online application candidates are advised to use the "**SAVE**" facility to verify the details in the online application form and modify the same if required.
6. No change is permitted after clicking on "**FINAL SUBMIT**" button. Visually Impaired candidates will be responsible for carefully verifying/ getting the details filled in, in the online application form properly verified and ensuring that the same are correct prior to submission as no change is possible after submission.
7. An email with the Online Application Number, generated on successful submission of the application will be sent to the candidate's email ID specified as a system generated acknowledgement. If candidates do not receive the email at the email ID specified by them, they may consider that their online application has not been successfully submitted.
8. An incomplete online application will not be considered as valid in any circumstances.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. The name entered in the online application form should match exactly with all the requisite documents (SSC certificate etc.) to be produced to BARTI. You will be debarred from selection process, if there is any discrepancy (difference) in the name entered by you in the online application form and the name printed in the documents produced at time of interview. Any request for subsequent changes will not be considered.
 2. Applicant should make sure before mentioning date of registration, whether it is date of registration or date of issuing letter. You will be debarred from selection process, if there is any discrepancy (difference) in the date entered by you in the online application form and the date printed in the documents produced to the BARTI. Any request for subsequent changes will not be considered.
 3. Candidates with CGPA score in Graduation/Master's Degree should mention their score in Percentages.
 4. Candidate with unique subject in Graduation and Post-graduation, which may not be mentioned in drop down list can choose "Other" option and write down their Subject by themselves on hard copy of Application form which is to be sent to BARTI office.
 5. No Candidate should fill more than one online Application, Duplication of application may lead to cancellation of all Applications.
 6. Candidates called for selection process will be required to submit/ produce all required documents.
 7. Applicant must submit attested photocopies of all required documents along with filled Online Application printout (back to back) & Declaration certificates to BARTI, Research Dept. by post/ by hand within next 5 days after filling online form.
 8. M.Phil./Ph.D Registered /Not Registered candidate should take out printout of Declaration certificate (Page No 18) and submit with her/his own signature.
 9. Any information submitted by a candidate in his/ her application shall be binding on the candidate personally and he/she shall be liable for prosecution/ civil consequences in case the information/ details furnished by him/ her are found to be false at a later stage.
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DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED WHILE SUBMITTING ONLINE FORM

1. Photograph of the candidate (50KB,JPEG/JPG, Maximum image dimension: 300px x 400px)
2. Signature of the candidate (50KB,JPEG/JPG, Maximum image dimension: 300px x 400px)
3. SSC MARKSHEET (JPEG) (up to max 200kb)
4. GRADUATION MARKSHEET (JPEG) (up to max 200kb)
5. POST GRADUATION MARKSHEET (JPEG) (up to max 200kb)
6. Disability certificate (JPEG) (up to max 200kb) **(If Required)**
7. M.PHIL/ NET /SET /PET /GATE qualifying certificates. (Any one- in serial)(JPEG) (up to max 200kb) **(If Required)**
8. CASTE certificates. (JPEG) (up to max 200kb)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED:

The following documents with a self-attested photocopy of the candidate's eligibility and identity are to be submitted by Post/in person at 28, Queens garden, Camp, Near VVIP circuit House, Pune- 411001. Non submission of requisite documents by the candidate will debar his/her candidature from further process.

1. Valid system-generated printout of the online application form.
2. Mark sheets & degree certificates for educational qualifications from SSC to PG.
3. M.Phil./Ph.D. Admission or Provisional/Confirmed Registration allotted by concern university.
4. M.PHIL/PET/SET/NET/GATE qualifying certificates. If you have qualified multiple exams, then please submit copies of that
5. Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority
6. Domicile certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
7. Disability certificate issued by the Competent Authority
8. Research Proposal (Synopsis) candidates must submit research synopsis about their research topic in given format (Page no - 15-16).
9. Declaration certificate in given format (Page no - 18).

RESEARCH PROPOSAL/ SYNOPSIS FORMAT

Cover Page of the Research proposal /Synopsis



Candidate Name	
M.Phil. / Ph.D.	
Subject of Research:-	
Research Centre:-	
University Name :-	
Date Of Registration:-	
Guide Name :-	
Department:-	
HOD :-	
Research Title:-	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----

Format for Preparing a Research Proposal:

The Title of the project should be concise (with sub-title, if any) reflecting the scope of the investigation.

Aim of the Project:	The broad aim of the project should be clearly mentioned.
Statement of the Problem:	The problem to be investigated should be clearly contextualized in the theoretical framework of the discipline
Overview of Literature:	The problem identified should be logically linked to other studies on the subject in the literature.
Significance of the study:	Explain the need for the present investigation.
Conceptual Framework:	The concepts to be used, their relevance and applicability to the study and their operationalization should be indicated.
Research Questions or Hypotheses:	The research questions to be answered/ addressed need to be clearly stated.
Research Methodology :-	
(a) Coverage:	The proposal should clearly indicate the universe of the study, sampling frame, sampling methods, sampling size, units of observation etc.
(b) Data Collection:	The proposal should indicate sources of data, types of data, tools and techniques for collection of various categories of proposed data.
(c) Data Analysis:	It should indicate the statistical techniques, if any, proposed to be used in data processing, specific packages for data analysis, content analysis, indices/scaling techniques proposed to be used etc.
Implications:	The proposal should state whether this research would bring forth any suggestions for policy making either for the region concerned or the country, any methodological innovations or contribute to theory building.
Plan of Research:	Tentative Timeline
References:	The proposal should include a 'List of References' mentioned in the text along with other important recent additions to the literature on the theme. The references should indicate the author, title, publisher and year of publication.

Instruction:

1. The expected length of the research proposal is 6 to 8 double-spaced A-4 size pages.
2. The Details of researcher & topic should be printed on the cover page of the research Proposal.
3. Candidate should not mention their name, dept., university or any other information anywhere on research proposal, except cover page.
4. The Research Proposal can be submitted in English /Marathi/ Hindi language.

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that, I have read the rules regarding the award of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Research Fellowship (BANRF-2017) for Scheduled Castes M.Phil/Ph.D students initiated by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research & Training Institute (BARTI), Pune.

I undertake to engage full-time for research work on the subject mentioned under the direction of the supervisor during the tenure of the fellowship. I further declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the particulars given in the form are correct.

In case, the information furnished by me are found to be false at a later stage, I shall be liable for civil consequences / legal prosecution.

Place:

Date:

(Signature of the candidate)

Name of the candidate
(In Block letters)

CRITERIA - BANRF -2017

Criteria - BANRF -2017

CRITERIA FOR SHORT LISTING

The final merit list for short listed candidate will be prepared based on reservation policy of BANRF-2017. As per the 1:4 ratio, 416 candidates will be short listed for 104 seats who will be called for further process.

The Academic merit will be prepared by calculating the following weightages to the percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination.

Sr. No	Degree	Weightage
1	Weightage for Graduation Degree Exam.	25%
2	Weightage for Post-Graduation Degree Exam.	75%
		100%

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION TO BANRF-2017

The Final selection list will be prepared by Evaluation of Research Proposal/ Synopsis & Interview. The final list of selected candidates will be prepared based on reservation policy of BANRF-2017.

Sr. No	Degree	Marks
1	Marks for Evaluation of Research Proposal /Synopsis	Total 70 Marks (as per following)
	a) Relevance, Application, Significance	10
	b) Statement of the Problem	10
	c) Operational Methodology	10
	d) Literature Review	10
	e) Novelty of Subject	10
	f) Outcomes of Research	10
	g) Language, Grammar etc.	10
2	Written test	10
3	Interview	20
	Total	100

Disqualification of Application In case of....

1. In case of any disparity found, between marks mentioned in marks sheet & Online Application, the application will be debarred from the selection process.
2. If the research proposal / Synopsis is not in the prescribed format given by BARTI, the candidature will be cancelled.
3. Short listed Candidates must have submitted their Research Proposal /Synopsis along with necessary documents to attend the interview, otherwise the candidature will be cancelled.
4. If the registration date of M. Phil applicant is earlier than 1st October, 2016, then the application will be debarred from the Short listing & selection process of BANRF-2017.

BARTI's
KEY RESEARCH AREAS

BARTI 's KEY RESEARCH AREAS

BARTI identifies research as an integral part of its constituting mission. It identifies certain areas of research as key to its mission of fostering social justice and equity in the society.

The below given 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. However, mere selection of one of the areas in the list will not be considered as criteria for selection.

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 contributions to Journalism for the cause of Equity, Social Justice, Brotherhood and Human Rights and its impact on present journalism.
7. 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.
8. 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 Gaikwad 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. Housing and access to basic amenities.
9. 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

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. Scientific Temperament among school teachers and its impact on students.
2. Impact of inter caste marriages on reduction of Caste Bias.
3. Prevalent superstitions and blind faith in various Scheduled Caste communities in Maharashtra and efforts required for eradication for the same.
4. Economic impact of superstitions on Scheduled Castes and Marginalized Castes (within Scheduled Castes).
5. Caste discrimination among Scheduled Castes and its impact on Equity and Social Justice.
6. 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.
4. Poverty and Malnutrition.
5. Political Representation.

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. Women Farmers/ Agricultural Labourers
4. Women and Access to Finance Capital- Scheme Specific/ Initiative Specific/ Individual Case Studies
5. Women's Work and Biology- Reproduction and Patterns of Employment
6. Unemployment among Scheduled Caste women.
7. Potential of SHGs of Scheduled Caste Women and Microfinance to bring social, educational and economic empowerment of Scheduled Caste women.
8. Women's economic contribution through their unpaid work.

9. Women's security
10. Sex Ratio – Save the Girl Child
11. Disability and Vulnerability: A study of Female Persons with Disability
12. Dr. Ambedkar and Hindu Code Bill.

LABOUR MARKET REGULATION / CONTRACTUALIZATION

1. Contractualisation in various sectors and its impact on backward communities, for e.g.
 - a. Construction workers:
 - b. Sanitation Workers
 - c. Domestic Workers
2. Labour Movements and Unorganized Sector

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.

RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

RESERVATION AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

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. Aspects of social justice and equity in the constitution.
3. Perception and reality about reservations
4. Perception and reality about condition of backward communities

MEDIA AND BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

Representation of backward communities in print, visual media, 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. Peasant Organizations in India
3. Land Acquisition and the Caste Question- whose land is acquired? / how? / What are the possibilities post the acquisition.?
4. Caste and Nutrition
5. Children in bonded slavery in India - their social background.

REACH OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ISSUES IN INTERNET ERA

SENIOR CITIZENS – ISSUES AND WAY FORWARD

ADDICTION – TYPES & REMEDIES

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 / 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).
