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**THE ROLE(S) OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR IN
SOCIAL REFORMATION: A BRIEF STUDY IN COMPARISON**

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Abstract

On any list of the more important modern Indian social reformers who have mentionably transformed the societal structure of the country, the names of ‘Swami Vivekananda’ (Narendranath Dutta, 1863-1902) and ‘Babasaheb Ambedkar’ (Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, 1891-1956) usually appear at the very beginning. Both Swami Vivekananda and Ambedkar thought that all the Indians collectively form a ‘single stream.’ The epitome of an Indian monk, and a national hero, Swami Vivekananda is credited with introducing the western society to the ‘Spirit of India’. He is usually referred to as the ‘Hindu religion’s spokesperson’. The fundamental tenets of his reforms were socialism, secularism, mass upliftment of ordinary people, compassionate treatment of the so-called ‘untouchables’, universal literacy, women’s emancipation, and inculcation of social work as a component of religious devotion. Dr. Ambedkar consistently attempted to address the issues of social-problems like untouchability and caste-based distinctions. He enthusiastically advocated for rights of the Dalits and other socially-underprivileged groups during his lifetime. Like Vivekananda’s, his attempts to revamp the Indian society also unified the mass under the common social platforms of liberty, unity, fraternity, and bonhomie. This article proposes to discover some of the significant contributions of Swami Vivekananda and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as two important social-reformers of modern India, and how their philosophies are still finding relevance in 21st-century India.

Keywords: Vivekananda, Ambedkar, social-reforms, social evils, divinity in man, social justice.