



A Note on Economic Thought of M. K.Gandhi: The Father of the Nation.

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Gandhi was the great philosopher and freedom fighter, who had played major role in the national movement in India. He lunched three important movements like non cooperation, Civil-Disobedient and Quite Indian movement in non violence and peaceful struggle against British rule. Although, he was not economist but he has given economic vision, if implemented, it would have relieved India from many socio-economic problems. He mostly emphasized on the small scale industries and also adopted the principle of Swadeshi. It evades economic dependence on external market forces that could make the village community weak. He encouraged cottage and village industries to improve the economic condition of the country. By the encouragement of Mahatma Gandhi small scale trading of pure Indian products started and gradually small scale business changed into industries. New large scale and foreign industries with intensive mechanization are coming with ongoing process of globalization which is mainly responsible for many socio-economic problems. Therefore, the main focus of this paper is analysing the present economic scenario from the Gandhian economic perspective¹.

M.K. Gandhi was a charming leader of the Indian National Movement with prime intention of obtaining freedom from the British rule and re- established self-reliance of India's population. He always works for the well being of the Indian people who were suffering from the policies of East India Company during the era of British's. He was not a economist but given his ideas on economic issue and always struggled against the exploitation policy of British's. Gandhiji was very much infatuated by Ruskin's heterodox doctrine that the wealth of a nation consisted, not in its production and consumption of goods, but in its people (Chavan,2013). His economic philosophy was mainly concerned with individual dignity and the welfare of the poor



people. Gandhi's stress on individual's liberty includes a sense of responsibility towards oneself, to others, to society and perhaps to the world beyond. Thus individual would have more choices of enterprises and prospects. This type of arrangements would ensure a smooth relationship between the labour and entrepreneur which may enhance efficiency with increased labour welfare. Definitely, these institutional arrangement did not fully fruitful and develop an institutional arrangement for harmonious relationship between the capital and labour (Pani,2002).

Gandhiji's economic ideas are understand in his whole philosophy. His main idea aims at the socio-economic reconstruction of society. He thinks about a total socio-economic reform. He did not give any economic model regarding the development of economics but gave some basic canons based on which we can decide what kind of economic composition is most preferable for Indian economy (Ishii, 1994). Gandhiji has given the concept of useful work which would be helpful among all communities, lack of untouchability, ban (of liquor), small scale and village industries, focus on basic education, Gram Swaraj. These are necessary social inputs without them economic development is not possible. Reconstruction in the rural areas is the main source of development in villages. In his views, each village is a totally independent and efficient which will fulfil their needs (Bhuimali, 2014). Gandhian mode have very important place in the history of economic thought².

ECONOMIC THOUGHTS OF GANDHIJI:

Gandhi's advocated on economics were simple and straight forward which would make India economically self sufficient, manufacturing and satisfying its own needs in domestic market, home-grown ways. This would not only improve the composition of the rural economy of India, it had also demoralized the British economic motives of the exploitation of Indian people. The ethics of economic self sufficiency were spread all over India by Gandhiji during the colonial period.



VILLAGE INDUSTRY, KHADI AND SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY:

Gandhi's great approach of Self reliance and Swadeshi is playing a significant role for the improvement of human beings. He presented a very useful model for economic development in India. Gandhi saw the importance of the rural economy and thought that poverty could be eased by stimulating village economies of agriculture and labour intensive production by using simple technologies on a ground level. Gandhiji wanted to re-establish India from the lowest level. He gave an idea to Indians to reconstruct the villages. He had imagined self-reliant villages, free from dependency on big cities which cure them from exploitation. He has also strongly advocated for decentralization of economy. According to Gandhiji, if we want Swaraj to be built on nonviolence, we will have to give the villages their proper place. He said that development of the village is depended on their own self-sufficiency which is only possible when there is no more exploitation. On the other hand the use of large scale industries will create problem of competition and marketing in the economy. Gandhi felt that India's dependence on imports from other countries was the main reason of much adversity in India. His basic approach has always supposed about the intentional needs, the need for independent villager and very close to his philosophical and sociological thoughts. He was paying attention on the development of common person and more significantly the development of the depressed and needy group of people. Therefore, he has to focuses on the village being self-reliant, mechanized mainly for use. The term Swadeshi which used by Gandhi consists to promoting and stimulating indigenous industries like small scale and cottage industry of Khadi, Handloom spinning and weaving mills. He offered khadi as a sign of patriotism, equal opportunity and independence. It was his idea by using Khadi India can defeat the British rule and which can also rebuild of the Indian society. Therefore, Gandhiji has started his movement for khadi in 1918. He suggested that if we wear and produce such type of clothes then British cloth must be abolished from the Indian market and India become an independent economy. He imposed small scale and cottage industry in India which would beneficial to Indian economy because these industries are based on family labour and low investment. Raw material is easily available in villages from agricultural products like cotton, food and many other crops. So this would lead indigenous market. Gandhi gives pressure on the growth of the rural industries like khadi, handlooms,



sericulture and handicrafts³. Gandhi was of the opinion that large-scale industries have capital intensive which would concentrate of wealth in the hands of few. If small scale industries introduced then people would never face the problem of production and external market. Small scale industries play major role in Indian economy it is a source of Employment generation.

The small-scale industries gives equal distribution of income and wealth in the amonglabour. This is mainly due to the fact that small scale industries are wide-ranging as compared to large scale industries and are having large employment potential. These industries have more capability to generate or attract innovation. They provide abundant opportunities for the advance technology. The entrepreneurs of small industries play a deliberate role in expansion of new innovation and goods. It also make easy to transfer the technology from one to the other. As a result, the economy collects the benefit from small units⁴.

Therefore, India also concentrates on the industrial growth which may be enhancing the growth of India. The growth of industrial sector leads to a more utilization of natural resources which have easily available in the particular country as a result, production of goods and services has increased employment opportunities has been generated and increased the standard of living of common people. In this ongoing process of globalization country framed various policies aimed at development of industries in the public and private sectors. Due to this effect India emphasis on large scale industries and multinational companies (Dodh,2012).The main effects of globalization in the Indian economy are that many foreign companies established industries in India. The benefit of Globalization on Indian economy is that the foreign companies acquire highly advanced technology and this would help to make the Indian economy more technologically advanced. But the real picture is totally different because this is one sided development in India. Due to the effect of Globalization small scale sector has abolished its existence from Indian economy⁵. Large scale industries have use capital intensive technique which would increase unemployment because India is a most populated country and people wants more jobs. However with the effect of globalization or technology based industrial expansion and use of machines have created more unemployment in country. The rapid growth of large industries due to globalization has not passed benefits to everyone. It has tremendously



increased in the informal sector which affected the working population. The informal sector is not included in the labour legislation because these workers have not good health, terrible working situation and more burdens. Child labour has been forced to work in industries because in this ongoing period of globalization, the people who work in the large scale industries are living in extreme poverty. Profits are goes to only entrepreneurs therefore gap between the rich and the poor has been increased. Apart from this, large scale industries has also ruin of the environment through pollution which affects the health of human beings⁶.

The great economic ideology of Gandhi enhanced the development of rural areas and minorities by giving them equal and sustainable earnings. If we should try to improve villagers workmanship and buy their products in spite of imported products or even articles produced in big cities, big factories. In other words, we should induce the creative talent of the villager and develop their indigenous market in the present 21st century. Gandhi's term true 'Swadeshi' consists in enhancing and stimulating cottage and small industries⁷. It also provides opportunities to the original talent and imagination of the people. It can generate employment for Indian youth in the country that is in search of job. so India should adopted the economic mode and idea of Gandhi ji which totally favourable in today's Indian economy because India's balance of payment is unfavourable because india export more from other countries rather than produce in our country by using labour intensive technology. The products which are imported by India such a high technology based. on the other hand , if India should follow his ideas of self sufficiency and 'Swadesi' India never face these types of problems. So, India must need to go back Gandhian economic ideology⁸.

Conclusion

Gandhi's economic thoughts have great impact on Indian economy. He emphasized on cottage and small scale industries which have significant importance for the development of the Scio-economic condition of the common people. He has proposed very constructive economic ideas and if these ideas implemented, India would have been relieved many socio-economic problems. India should emphasis on the policy of Gandhi ji which specially represent the Swadeshi policy and work for human being.



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