

# Gandhian Economic Thoughts on "Rural Economic Development" and its Relevancy in Modern Era

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## (A) Preface:

Gandhiji has expressed his Economic thoughts in Gramswaraj. Basically, Gramswaraj is a Economical system where we can't find human centralized or exploited Economy. Gramswaraj is a Panacea which innovated by Gandhiji for all types of Rural Dieses. This is not only for India but all those people who are exploited. In this article, i have tried to highlight the basic principles of Gramswaraj and rural Economic Development and its relevancy for today.

## (B) Basic Principles of Economic Development:

### (1) Full Employment :

Our goal is the achievement of pure mental and moral development with welfare of humanities. If we should want to achieve this goal, there must be precondition that all the management of this plane should keep in rural worker. The economic arrangement should be construct that nobody should live without food and clothes and if we should want this type of condition of the whole world there is a basic condition that the instruments of production of food and clothes should be stayed on with everybody.

### (2) Self-Reliance :

He, who doesn't work, has no right to eat. If everybody will work to get their bread, there will be no need of more work. If everybody can understand this, all can get enough food and space. After this, there should not be the problem of overpopulation, diseases and illness.

### (3) Equality :

The point of economic equality is the main key of non-violent pure self-government. To work for Economic Equality, means to remove the permanent quarrel between capital and labour. It means to decrease wealth of those few persons who have collected the big part of national income.

### (4) Trusteeship :

The nonviolent way to get excess wealth from the rich is that they (Rich) should have become the trustees of their excess wealth for society. If they become the trustees of their own wealth honestly, they will use that money for good work.

### (5) Decentralisation :

If India wants to rise with non-violence, it should make decentralisation in many things.

### (6) Swadeshi :

If we follow the principle of Swadeshi, it is our duty to find out neighbours who can provide our need. We should train all those who do not know these works.

### (7) Self-Reliance :

The unit of society would be a conceptual village or group. This unit should be self-reliant and must be interdependent within group. Every village should have its first duty to produce food and cotton of their necessity.

### (8) Co-operation :

If possible, each and every activity will be run on principles of co-operative method. We should remember one thing that the co-operative method would be based on non-violence.

### (9) Insistence of Truth :

The instrument behind the power of every rural society will be insistence on truth or the non-violent method.

### (10) Equal Position for all Religion :

We are all the leaves of a big tree and the root of this tree has gone very deep. So, nobody can move its trunk.

### (11) Panchayati Raj :

All those adult ladies and gents who are minimum qualification holders by rule will elect a Panchayat of five members and it will rule or work for public as a rural Government.

### (12) Basic Education :

Education means to expose all those excellent portion which are hidden in body, mind and soul of a child. So, Gandhiji believed that the beginning of education of a child should be learning of some useful handicrafts.

## (C) Relevance of Economic Thoughts of Gandhi :

We have seen the main thoughts of Gandhiji. But the approach of modern Economist is different than Gandhi so, we cannot implement the Gandhian Economic Thoughts in many sectors.

### (1) The rate of Economic Development :

The ancient Economist has presented the various forms of Economics. The main goal of society is to generate employment, optimisation in asset allocation, maximum growth rate of national income and maximum utility of consumers. Gandhiji was in favour of human welfare. He said that everybody should have got work is able to work! But this thought cannot prove the active relationship between the employment and economic development.

### (2) Unemployment and Poverty :

Modern Economists suggest the scientific and skilfully progress for remove all types of unemployment. Scientific and skilful progress is consistent with social progress. Our planning

commission has also accepted this type of strategy from the 2<sup>nd</sup> fifth year plan. But the attitude of Gandhiji is different. He recommended implementation of spinning wheel for removal of unemployment and poverty. He also told that if the supply of labourer is more than the demand, one should implement the labour oriented technology of production. But in this area of modernisation and technical progress no one can keep himself away from technology and we should also think about economical condition. If we want to keep ourselves with developed countries, there is no way without acceptance of modern technology.

### (3) Maximum Economically Happy State Health :

'Morality' and 'Religion' were in centre of the economic thoughts of Gandhiji. He believed in moral upliftment of a person. He was against the theory of maximum materialistic happiness. He told that everybody should receive sufficient facility of education and health of children. Nature produces sufficient and if everybody does not follow without household things and then poverty will automatically be removed.

But today there is competition to get more and more wealth and materialistic happy state and condition of 'Might is Right'. In this type of condition, there is planned exertion of increase in income by more and more production in agriculture and industries. Today the main aim of planning is increment in national and per capita income. Afterwards the dependence of capitalistic system is increased.

### (4) Maximum Per Capita consumption :

Gandhiji believed in simple living and high thinking and also said that if a person wants to be happy, he should decrease his needs. Where the modern economists establish that 'Low consumption creates depression', 'Individual saving is a virtue but aggregate saving is vice'. He also believes that we can achieve golden period in economy by 'Maximum Per capita consumption'. Today, people are evaluated by their use of consumer goods, e.g. D.V.D., L.C.D., Cell phone, Bike, Car, A.C. etc and in this technological period the need of all those goods are created by advertisement. In present days, we feel the concept of Gandhiji for minimising the need become very old and unreliable when the world goes forward with the

scientific innovation and technical progress. Now, the philosophy of increase in production, income and employment is much important by creating demand of needs.

### (5) Rural Reconstruction :

The Gandhian ideology of rural reconstruction and faster development of rural industries for removal of unemployment received much important after independence in India. We saw the reflection of this thought of Gandhi in new industrial policy of 1991. Because in this time of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, some sectors are reserved for small industries. There is central place of Gandhian economic thoughts for rural industries and rural development in Indian planning.

### (6) The Principle of Trusteeship :

Gandhiji has given the theory of trusteeship for removal of inequality of income and wealth. He said that rich have to donate their excess wealth for the welfare of society. He was in favour individual freedom also and the state should not be owner of whole wealth. But after independence, this theory has not change mentality of industrialists, landlords, traders and bankers. Today, by the law of land ceiling, effective labour unions and interference of state, there is control over industrialists, landowners and capitalists and by planning the country wants to establish socialistic society.

### (D) Conclusion:

We have seen the main thoughts of Gandhiji for rural development and relevancy of these thoughts for present days. The use of machine has increased with the progress of technology. There is production on large scale; efforts for increase in needs by effective advertisement and materialistic happiness. One side economic inequality, unemployment and poverty increase and on other side the use of capital oriented production method instead of labour oriented method of production increases. In this critical situation the Gandhian thoughts are very useful in limited sectors and give guidance also. We should accept one thing without any doubt that in this period of materialistic happiness, the need of thoughts of equality and moral values of Gandhiji has become more in the world. In short, the thoughts of trusteeship, limited use of machine and rural development, Gandhiji are very much important today.

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