

Economic Ideas of Mahatma Gandhi

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Abstract : Gandhi's economic ideas were in sense a logical corollary of his moral principles such as Swaraj Sarvodaya truth non- violence and equality and the like based on these wider social principles. Gandh derived his economic ideas which if brought together would give a picture of the economic system that he visualised

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Introduction - Gandhi's economic ideas are understand in his whole philosophy. His main economic ideas aims at the socio-economic reconstruction of society. Gandhiji did not give any economic model regarding the development of Economics but gave some basic canons based on which we can decide what king of economic composition is most preferable for Indian economy Gandhi has given the concept useful work for which would be helpful among all communities lack of untouchability small scale and village Industries the measure suggested by Gandhi for ensuring production and distribution to take place simultaneously was to orient all productive activities to the satisfaction of the basic needs of the masses. This mean that production pattern should be uni-dimensional confining itself to the basket of necessities only. As a means of ensuring that exploitation did not take place Gandhi desired that the methods of production should be indigenized. As a part of this he objected to the use of machine. To quote him and "machinery him it place it has come to stay, But it must not be allowed to displace human labour.

Top Economic Ideas Of Mahatma Gandhi

Industrialisation: Mahatma Gandhi opposed the idea of industrilising India in the Western manner Large scale industrialization is a negotiation of nonviolence because its consequences are exploitation, Monopoly centralization, mass production, complicated distribution and conflicts. These arise out of cut throat competition of capturing market. Mass production is the first slogan of industrialization. According to Mahatma Gandhi "this mania for mass production is responsible for the world crisis. This mass production leads to the concentration of production at a particular place, when many milles and factories concentrate at one particular place, these very chance of their being monopolise. The monopolist ultimately begins to dictate the price according to his sweet will, if the Monopoly is in the hands of the capitalist they do not get

the home market for the consumption of the goods the conflict and competition for foreign market ensue leading at times to battles and wars and endangering the peace of the world: This cut throat competition is a necessary evil of industrialization. The greatest danger of industrialisation is its exploitation of the villagers. Men materials and other resources of The villages are compelled to be drawn towards the industrialised centres. Gandhi held that Industrisation on a mass scale would necessarily lead to passive or active exploitation of the villagers as the problems of competition and marketing come in."

Containment of wants : "Nature produces enough to meet the needs of all the people, but not enough to satisfy the greed of any man " Mahatma Gandhi.

To meet the minimum needs of everybody Gandhi suggested two measures, first everybody should get sufficient work to enable him to make two ends meet. Second the means of production of Elementary necessities of life should remain under the control of masses.

Swadeshi : The greater part of Gandhi's work was to renew Indias vitality and regenerate its culture. According to the principal of Swadeshi whatever is made or produced in the village must be used first and fore most by the member of the village, Trading among villages and between villages and towns should be minimal like icing on the cake goods and services that cannot be generated within the community can be brought from else where, Swadeshi avoids economic dependence on external market forces that could make the village community vulnerable. It also avoids unnecessary unhealthy wasteful and therefore environmentally destructive transportation. Swadeshi this is the way to comprehensive Peace, peace with onself, peace between peoples and peace with nature. The global economy drives people to word high-performance high achievement and high ambition for materialistic success, this result in stress loss of meaning loss of inner peace

loss of space for personal and family relationship and loss of spiritual life. Gandhi realized that in the past life in Indian was not only prosperous but also conducive to philosophical and spiritual development.

Labour and capital : Gandhi's statement – "Capital should be labours servant not its masters repudiates the claim of these who glorify the Supremacy of capital in modern economic development. He also believed in the formation of unions by labourers because labour would be superior to Capital only, if it stood united and was morally and intellectually trained. He agreed to strikes but labourers must perform their duty first he also added strike should be based on the principle of non violence and truth.

Trusteeship : Trusteeship meant that "The rich man will be left in possession of his wealth of which he will use what he reasonably require for his personal needs and will act as a Trustee for the remain reminder to be used for the rest of the society. Trusteeship is another novel and innovative idea of Gandhi. It is an ethico- economic concept, Gandhi believes that economic equality is a basic requirement of just and nonviolent Society, economic equality is opposed to monopolization or concentration of wealth, he takes economic equality or equitable distribution of wealth, as a great idea, But the problem is how to materialize this ideal into practice in other words to bring economic equality without any coercive measure or encroaching upon individual freedom is a great challenge. Trusteeship seems to provide a possible solution to this problem.

Gandhiji formulation of Trusteeship is based on his basic pre-suppositions, He firmly believes that by birth all men are equal and that all wealth belong to the society, Because of this assumption he hold that the daily wages of all people in the society should be equalized, If there is some difference with regard to talent intelligence physical strength etc there can be modest difference in the wages but that will not give rise to a big cap in the society further people should utilize their talent for the Welfare of the society, Since men are born equal they have a right to equal opportunity. If a person has more than his professional need he becomes a Trustee of that so as to utilize it for common good and not for his selfish interest. Since Gandhiji believes that all wealth belong to the society he is against private accumulation or hereditary inheritance trusteeship ensures the transfer of wealth from the class to the unprivileged class. The privileges class be impressed upon with the idea that they should act as Trustee and the wealth in their possessing should be utilized in the constructive way to

ameliorate the condition of all, Anybody who has the wealth can be appealed to act as a Trustee, Thus Gandhi hold that what belongs to an individual is actually the wealth of the community for every person is an integral part of the society, A person relationship to his material possessions is like that of a Trustee, He has to manages it without any selfish attachment, The material possessing of an Indian is not a personal possessions but can be used in the service of others who are less possessing, Similarly a scientist, a scholar, as a teachnocrat, a doctor, a lawyer etc they elite class of the society should use their talents so talent should not be used for exploiting other or accumulating property for personal benefit. Talent should be recognized and utilised for social betterment. So people having surplus wealth or some talent should act as trustees of the society.

Conclusion : Gandhi economic ideas have great impact on Indian economy, He emphasized on Cottage and small scale industries which have significant importance for the development of economic condition of the common man, Mahatma Gandhi has proposed very reconstructive economic ideas and if these ideas implemented, India would have been relieved, many economic problems, India should emphasis on the policy of Mahatma Gandhi which especially represents, the Swadeshi policy and work for human being. In the age of globalization, Indian society is facing may economic problem on account of large scale industries and mechanization. Small Scale industries play a key role in our economy for its development these industries are basically using labour intensive and high potential for Employment generation.

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