

# Relevance of Gandhian Philosophy Among the Young Population

MR. Munindra Gogoi<sup>1</sup>, Mr. Nirupam Phukan<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1,2</sup>*Assistant Professor Machkhowa Degree College*

## INTRODUCTION

Few people born like Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi(1868 – 19480) in the world whose life cannot be separated from his thought. Infect whatever he thought was reflected in his work. His thought was as solid as gold as concrete that reflect in his task in his life himself. His innovative thinking pushed him to sky height that cannot be touched until and unless one becomes as great as him. His thought was not for one but all soul of the earth where everyone will be independent for his own shake and helpful for all as well without harming other. Gandhi's idea was the synthesis of Tolstoy and Ruskin's ideas. Tolstoy's book " The Kingdom of God within You" and Ruskin's "Unto This Last" had a great influenced on Gandhi. Gandhi's concept of egalitarianism, Simplicity, asceticism was shaping his economic idea. Gandhian economics is based on ethical foundation. The three basic principles of Gandhian economics were Truth, Nonviolence, dignity of labour and simplicity (Vakil1978). Deferring from modern capitalism he stresses on village republic decentralisation, bread labour, Village surbodoya, and dissociation from machinery and industrialization and develop the doctrine of truth ship and self-control and he was also in favour of total prohibition. His ideas were so solid it would have been possible to complete poverty eradication and sustainable development if his ideas will properly have implemented in India. Pandit Jawarharalal Neheru, the first prime Minster of India considering the large-scale prevalence of poverty rethink of gandhian economy for complete poverty eradication. Dr. Ropsus observed how wrongly India has been following the materialistic socialism rather than Gandhian human wisdom. Despite the relevance of Gandhian thought his economic ideas has been neglected in India during post-independence era.

Thus, this paper made an attempt to justify the Gandhian economy in present day context.

## OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the paper were

1. To examine the relevance of Gandhian economy.
2. To observe the attitude of the young people to towards Gandhian Economy.
3. To identify the problems for implementing Gandhian Economy in India.

## METHODOLOGY

THIS paper is primarily empirical one based on primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from fifty students from different educational institution, student organization like ASSU, AJYCP, TMPK etc. of Dhemaji district. Secondary data were collected from different published and unpublished government sources, books and journals. Randomly selected students become the unit of the universe of the study. Data so collected are processed with few simple statistical devices with the help of computer package like spss, micro soft excel etc. for analytical proposes.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Primary and secondary data create contradictory regarding the relevance of Gandhian economy. Among the fifty students thirty students i.e about seventy percent students were not in favour of gandhian economy. Only fifteen student i.e about thirty percent students was in favour of implementing gandhian economy for development of our society. Interestingly out of this seventy percent student only ten percent student has complete idea about the gandhian economy twenty percent has little idea about

gandhian economy and seventy percent has no idea about gandhian economy.(Table: 1.1) This students want individual development without knowing that gandhiji was also not against the individual development.

Gandhian view was different from Marxism, Lelinism, Maoism. In their communism individual is subordinate to the state but in Gandhian doctrine of trusteeship individual at the centre state has to promote his welfare and his socialism is based on nonviolence. Gandhi made a distinction between possession and possessiveness. In his view the evil lay not in possession as much but in the attitude of possessiveness.

Gurner Mydral, in his “Asian Drammer” supported the Gandhis view on village and cottage industries. Gandhi was in favour of creating employment opportunity to all section of the society, so he advocated for labour intensive industry like cottage and khadi industries. Now India is the third largest growing country next to China and united states of America. In India all round industrial development are taking place with average GDP growth rate of 5.4 percent. But the development process is being concentrated in few states like, Gujrat, Harryana, Delhi, Maharasra, West Bengal,Karnataka and disparity being the common feature among the state. It is also observed that disparities exist in different part of the same state. According to the report of the Economic Survey of India (2008) only 12 percent people of the nation spend 86 percent expenditure of the nation which also shows the existence of disparities among the people of the nation.

Failure of new economic policy in employment generation is also observed during post reform period. Despite being the third highest growing country India is the country with a highest number of poverty i.e about 32.5 cores which is higher than the population of entire Europe.

Today’s major alarming problem of global warming, deforestation and biodiversity losses, water and air pollution also support the Gandhi’s view on industrialization and sustainable development.

Table: 1.2 shows the rate of poverty alleviation in the pre reform era is higher than post reform period. The rate of poverty alleviation is only 1 percent per annum despite the high economic growth during plan period. It is observed that During the reform period the absolute nos of poverty reduction is very less. At the

present population growth rate of 1.34 percent, the employment generation is decreases to -.38 percent during the period of 1983-2004(Table: 1.3).

In the sixth plan draft it is admitted that there are vast areas of the country which has remained backward over the years. In case of net domestic product annual growth rate during 1990-2003 was 8.9 in Panjab, 6.3 in Gujarat,3.3 Karnataka, while it was only .4 in MP, 2.6 in Assam,-.7 for Bihar while for India it was\about 5.4 percent(Table:1.4) which clearly shows the disparities in growth rate of different states.

In order to provide equal opportunity to all instead of few former president of India Dr. A.P. J. Abul Kalam based on Gandhian economy develop the PURA approach to provide urban amenities to rural areas. Prof. A. M Khusro stated that steps should be taken to prevent the human movement in where infrastructures exist to develop infrastructures where human beings live. Thus, decentralisation of development is the call of hour.

#### PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Dominance of materialistic individualism in the society.
- Difficulties in conceived the Gandhian philosophy.
- Lack of dedication and sacrifice able attitude of the people.
- Lack of political Will.
- Degradation of value education.
- Dichotomy in implementation.

#### CONCLUSION

There can be no substitution to the Gandhian economy. Proper implementation of Gandhian economy will lead to a balance between economic development and environment upgradation. This study clearly reveals that Gandhian view should be disseminated to a large extent among the young people. We disagree to those critiques who thought that his view on machine and industrialization put back the human progress. They may misjudge and misunderstood that he was actually not against the use of machine and industrialization. He is now the future not the past. We thus agree with the view of Fishes that in order to survive civilization and the flower in

freedom decency and truth the remainder twentieth century and what lies beyond must belong not to Lenin or Trotsky, not to Marx or Mao or Hoo or Che or anyone but to Mahatma Gandhi.

Table: 1.1 RESPONSE OF STUDENT TOWARDS GANDHIAN ECONOMY

Believe	Not Believe	Total	Total idea	Partial idea	No idea
15(30)	35(70)	50(100)	(10)	(20)	(70)

Source: Field Survey,(2010)

\* Figure in the bracket indicate percentage.

Table:1.2 COMPARATIVE POVERTY ESTIMATION

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1973-74	56.4	49	54.9
1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9
1993-1994	37.3	32.3	36
2004-2005	28.3	25.7	27.5

Source: Planning Commission.

Table:1.3 ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN ORGANIZED SECTOR

Year	1983-84	1994-2004
Public	1.53	-.8
Private	.44	.61
Total	1.97	-.19

Source: Ministry of Labour

Table: 1.4 ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH RATE OF DIFFERENT STATES

States	Annual average growth rate (1993- 2003)
Panjab	3.9
Gujrat	6.3
Maharastra	5.6
West Bengal	6.8
Madhya Pradesh	.4
Tamilnadu	5.3
Karela	6.6
Assam	2.6
Orissa	4.1
Bihar	-.07
All India	5.4

Source: Ministry of Finance

## REFERENCES

- [1] Govt. of India(2004 05):Ministry of Finance, Indian public Finance Statistics.
- [2] Govt. of India(2006): Report of Planning Commission of India.
- [3] Govt. of India(2008): Economic survey of India.
- [4] Loknathan. V(1973): A History of Economic Thought, S, Chand.
- [5] Myrdal. G (1968): Asian Drammer.
- [6] Vakil. K . (1978): Gandhian Economic Thought, Narayan Publication.