

## **A Study on Economic Policy, Philosophy and Inclusive thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi**

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**Abstract:** Gandhianism in the country seems to be losing ground in the last few days. Gandhi is a philosophy of life. Many foreign countries were amazed by this philosophy of Gandhianism and considered Gandhi as a universal man. However, the people of our country seem to have forgotten that Mahatma very quickly. The trend that killed Gandhi is being glorified. There was talk of making a memorial to that killer. Gandhiji had highlighted the importance of productivity, investment, employment generation in the agricultural rural sector through this message. If every village becomes self-sufficient as per his idea, India will be able to achieve great economic development. We have to go to the villages to bring the development of urban areas to the rural areas. Even before independence, Gandhi had mentioned the importance of making conscious efforts for rural development. Gandhiji said that if the farmers in the village are to be brought out of the state of starvation, education and other useful information will have to be spread among them. Gandhiji recognized the importance of agriculture based labor intensive industries.

**Key words:** Economic Policy, Philosophy, inclusive thoughts, Mahatma Gandhi, development, capital, non-violence, Human values etc.

### **Introduction:**

Gandhian economic system is based on principles of simplicity, decentralization, self-sufficiency, cooperation, equality, non-violence, human values, self-sufficient village units and nationalization of basic industries, Swadeshi and fiduciary. In turn, the problems of labour, capital, production, distribution and profit etc. will be solved. Since 1991, we have been following a market-oriented open economic system but the old problems have yet to be solved and high development has yet to be achieved. And hence there is an urgent need to find another alternative solution to the current economic problems. Various economists like Gunnar Mardal and others are of the opinion that the socio-economic problems of India and other developing countries can be solved by following Gandhi's guidelines. Gandhian ideas are still more relevant today as both nationalization and privatization have failed to solve many problems like poverty, unemployment, inequality, environmental degradation etc. Development programs based on science and technology are material-centric, not human-centric, and hence there is a need to rethink the Gandhian self-sufficient village economic model to solve all our problems.

### **Problems of the Study:**

In the current situation in India it is very necessary to try to develop the rural areas and reduce the poverty in the rural areas according to Gandhiji's thought but in this modern and twenty first century India has adopted a new economic policy so people are not ready to accept Gandhiji's economic policy in any case. But if we want to improve the economic situation of India in the future, it is very necessary to consider Gandhiji's philosophy and

economic policy. In the current scenario, unethical practices are getting a lot of relief in India. It is very necessary in the current situation to create people of Gandhiji's thought and increase the number of people who cultivate morality by reducing immoral ways. Gandhiji, the great son of Mother India, the architect of Indian freedom as well as giving the world a great chance of non-violence, Gandhiji was a venerable man of the age. India needs to review the philosophy and thoughts of people like Mahatma Gandhi even though there is a lot of poverty in the present situation in India but in the present modern era people of India are forgetting the old people.

**Objectives of the Study:**

In this research, the main purpose of the research is to study Mahatma Gandhi's economic thoughts as well as philosophy and comprehensive thoughts and the researchers have given some specific objectives in the said research as follows.

1. To Study the Economic policy and Mahatma Gandhi.
2. To Study the Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and rural development.
3. To Study the inclusive thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Significance of the Study:**

Today we see unemployment increasing in India. Because we can see that the businesses that used to exist in rural areas have been destroyed by today's mechanization, Gandhiji was of the opinion that industrialization in western countries would only be destructive for India. If industrialization is ramped up in India, the rural economic base of India will be undermined and the villages will be highly exploited due to competition and marketing issues. Gandhi made it clear that he was not an advocate of destroying machines, but of restraining them, of not allowing them to ride on man's shoulders.

**Scope of the Study:**

Although the scope of Mahatma Gandhi's economic, social and political thoughts is the whole world, the researcher has considered the three elements of Mahatma Gandhi's economic thought philosophy and general in this research, so these three elements are the scope of this research. At that time, the world was engulfed by the ideological movement of rationalism, scientism, and Descartes-style epistemology. At that time, Gandhi foresaw the enormous problems that would arise in the modern and post-modern era, nay, for the solution of those problems, Gandhi gave to the world a unified thought of the whole of life given by the history of India, the philosophical tradition. Gandhiji's thoughts heralded the beginning of a cultural revolution. The rise of a new manvantara was visible. It is here that we have to acknowledge the revolutionary nature of Gandhi's thoughts.

**Period of the Study:**

While doing this research, the researcher has studied the economic policy philosophy and general factors that happened during the career of Mahatma Gandhi. In this, the elements of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts and actual actions have been studied. Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts have been reviewed.

**Limitation of the Study:**

In developing and democratic nations like India, many individuals have put forward their all-inclusive views like economic, social, political, religious, cultural, but the views expressed by Mahatma Gandhi are considered very important in India. In this research, Mahatma Gandhi's three thoughts are included in this, Mahatma Gandhi's economic policy, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and Mahatma Gandhi's comprehensive thought are included in these three elements. Apart from Mahatma Gandhi, other people have presented their thoughts from the point of view of India's interest, but in this research, only Mahatma Gandhi's comprehensive and economic thought philosophy has been considered, so this is a limitation of this research. Out of many thinkers, only the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi have been presented in this research, so this is a limitation of this research.

**Research Methodology:**

While studying Mahatma Gandhi's economic thought philosophy and comprehensive thought, the researcher has used many secondary researches. These include research papers, articles, journals, newspapers, Magazines, Reference Books, Serial Books, Annual Reports, Government Reports, Mahatma Gandhi's own writings, Newspapers Internet, Audio, Videos and Images etc. Many secondary resources have been used and research has been completed using descriptive analysis method.

**Research Method:**

While studying Mahatma Gandhi's economic, social, political, religious, cultural as well as comprehensive thoughts and philosophy, the researcher has completed primary research using descriptive analysis method along with several secondary researches.

**Results and Discussion:**

The message of truth, non-violence and love given by the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi to the entire mankind is a constant inspiration to all. The country and the world should move forward with their thoughts. His thoughts are much needed in the current state of affairs in the country.

**Self-sufficient Village Economy:**

Gandhi warned of the dangers of millions of people living in dense cities. As a result of urbanization, increasing concentration in towns and cities and widening the gulf between the very rich and the very poor, crime, violence, exploitation have become a regular feature of urban life. Therefore, the Gandhian solution was each village to supply and consume all its needs and in addition produce a certain percentage as contribution to the needs of the cities.

**Decentralization:**

Gandhi believed in small-scale decentralized and small-scale cooperative organization to overcome the evils of centralized industries. Decentralization of economic power through the development of cottage and village industries was a means of breaking down the concentration of economic power in a few hands. He was opposed to the growing inequality of income and wealth due to the growth of large enterprises. At the stage of

development people can enjoy the fruits of development including social justice; everyone has equal opportunity to expand their potential and enjoy full freedom.

**Capitalist Mode of Production:**

According to Gandhi, the present methods of division of production into various components are also violent. The technique adopted tries to give a unit of the element which is proportional to the contribution it makes. Naturally, this creates a sharp inequality of income and leaves fewer shares for other less efficient units of production. One life in luxury and the other starves. This mode of distribution is violent and should be replaced by a non-violent mode, which cannot have inequality of income.

**Gandhi and Sarvodaya:**

In Gandhian economic system there are two stages to achieve the ultimate goal of human development. The first phase is political independence and the second, economic self-sufficiency by ensuring a significant level of minimum income for each family through the regeneration of village and cottage industries. So at the first stage of development, Swaraj will ensure political independence as well as economic security and independence.

**Philosophy and Gandhi:**

Although Gandhiji himself did not introduce the principle of non-violence, he was the first person to adopt non-violence at such a large political level. The principle of non-violence is mentioned in many places in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Judaism. In *My Experiments with Truth* Gandhi presented his philosophy of non-violence. When I feel down, I remember that truth and love have triumphed every time throughout history. Many atrocities have been committed and seemed invincible for a while, but they have always been defeated in the end. Throughout his career, Mahatma Gandhi not only in India but in the whole world has presented his thoughts and the importance of his thoughts to the world more effectively by putting those thoughts into reality and action. In these thoughts, Gandhiji has more effectively presented his thoughts about how to achieve greater welfare of human beings and the continuous changes in human life. Also, in terms of political thinker and political leader, Mahatma Gandhi's position is not only in India but in the whole world.

**Inclusive Thoughts:**

Whatever new developmental changes are happening in the world and are about to happen. For this, Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts are needed somewhere in the world today. How will the world become people's welfare when development is achieved primarily through the economic thinking of Mahatma Gandhi? India as well as the world economy needs Mahatma Gandhi's economic ideas, in Gandhiji's economic ideas we see the welfare of the masses. Mahatma Gandhi claimed that the economic future of Gandhiji's India lies in Charkha and Khadi, if Indian villages are to survive and thrive, Charkha must become ubiquitous.

**Rural Economy and Development:**

The development of rural culture is impossible without Charkha, i.e. the revival of rural arts-skills is meant by them. Villages are the main base of Mahatma Gandhi's ideal

state. Self-sufficient autonomous villages will be the basic factor to make decentralization possible in a non-violent society and the development of villages is necessary for the development of the country. Regarding development, Mahatma Gandhi says that development should go from the bottom to the top. But today development in the country seems to be limited to certain cities; India has more unemployment than employment

**Conclusion:**

Most of the contemporary problems are due to capitalist, urban and big industry oriented economic programs. The solution to all these problems lies in the adoption of Gandhian economic system. Mahatma Gandhi did not say economics in the definition of economics. He laid more emphasis on inculcating higher social and personal values than economic development. But it definitely answers financial questions. His economics are moral and social and he has a great message for all Indians. Mahatma Gandhi has put forward these thoughts related to life practice, although not presented in the terminology of economics.

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