

CHAPTER –3.

**SOCIAL REFORMISTS IN INDIAN ECONOMY
AND THEIR IMPACT ON DR. GADGILS WORK AREA.**

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Study Of Social Reformists And Their Work

3.2.A Justice M.G.Ranade.

3.2.B Mahatma Phule.

3.2.C Mahatma Gandhi.

3.2.D Dadabhai Naoroji

3.2.E His Highness Shri Shahu Maharaj.

3.3 Summery.

3.1 Introduction:

India is said to be an underdeveloped though it is not a developing economy. Here poverty is not only acute but also chronic. At the same time, there exist unutilised natural and other resources which could impact vastly over the economy. Hence, many social reformists in India have their visionary thoughts and work contribution in it. This has made positive implications on our economy. Selective reformist out of them are –Justice M.G.Ranade, Dadabhai Naoroji, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, Mahatma Phule, Mahatma Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, Gopal Krishna Gokhale and His Highness Shri Shahu Maharaj etc.

Indian Economy can be evaluated in 3 sets.

- Before Independence Period.
- After Independence Period (1947-1991)
- After Globalisation Period (1991 onwards)

In all these three stages Indian Economy has resulted into tremendous rapid growth.

Following were some of the major development issues in India.

- 1)Low per capita income.
- 2)Poverty
- 3)High population growth.
- 4)Problems of unemployment.
- 5)Instability of output in agriculture and related sectors.
- 6)Imbalances in distribution and growing inequalities.

Here are few reformist who have made their contributions related to these issues.

3.2 Study Of Social Reformists And Their Work:

3.2.A Justice M.G.Ranade (Period 1842 – 1901).

Mahadev Govind Ranade is said to be the founder of modern Indian Economics. In 1892 he has evoked the concept of “Hindi Economics”; which later had made a basic framework to Indian Economy.

The concept of Hindi Economy means the economy which would be applicable to Indian environment and society by which suitable culture to grow Indian Economy could be achieved.

Before independence, education of economics was based upon books written by English and European Professors. Hence subjects and cases included in it were related to Western and European Economy.

India as a agrobased country we could see that agriculture sector plays dominant role in our country. So Mr. Ranade has expressed his views that our economy should be based upon Indian environment. Justice Ranade had also put light over imbalance distribution of income and wealth. Unless this could be removed , there would always be the problems of poverty in India .

Dr.D.R.Gadgil was impressed with these thoughts . In his article published in “Sahyadri” magazine in 1942, he has expressed his opinion that Indian economy should move forward with Justice Ranade’s views. And after independence , Dr.Gadgil had really poured a concept of “Hindi Economy”. So we could conclude that a man behind Dr.Gadgil’s thought must be Justice Ranade.

3.2.B Mahatma Phule :

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule , a reformist who had sacrificed all his life for social , cultural , educational and economical development before independence.

Once Mahatma Gandhi has said in his article that Mr.Phule is a true “Mahatma” if Indian Society. His views to open a doors of education for Women and Girls made a history in India. This has created a real reformation in India. As per Mahatma Phule’s thoughts economic growth of India could be determined only by farmers and agricultural developments. He had put a light on farmers poverty , ignorance about education , debts etc.

He had advised many remedies over growth of agricultural sectors.

- 1) Formation of irrigation systems , wells, canals , a tanks etc.
- 2) Allotting rifle licenses to farmers for safety of crops.
- 3) In time availability of canal water for crops.
- 4) Modernisation of Agro equipments and implements .
- 5) Promotion of animal husbandry as a co business for agriculture.
- 6) Allotment of low interest loans to farmers and offering subsidies especially during natural calamities.

All these thoughts were implied by Dr.D.R.Gadgil during his economic planning process. Like Mahatma Phule ; Dr.Gadgil had also contend that laws of land reformation should strictly be implemented and applied in India. We could say that basic inspiration behind Dr.Gadgil's Co-operative movement is nobody but Mahatma Phule.

3.2.C Mahatma Gandhi:

Mahatma Gandhi is known for his “Gandhian Model of Growth” .

A maker of Independent India , promoter of non violence which puts India at very high level in the World. Gandhi was not a professional economist but he was awared with rural India and its problems. He states that if you have to see true India, the you must to go in rural India. He had not developed a formal model of development and growth but advocated certain policies with regards to the Indian agriculture and industries which was later famous as a “Gandhian Model of Growth”.

The Gandhian Model aims at the reform of agriculture as the most important sector in economic planning in India. As per his views , the prime objective of agricultural development should be national self sufficiency in food stuffs and maximum regional self sufficiency in foods. This has to be achieved not only by lager and better inputs but also through land reforms , abolition of proprietary rights on land , organisation of co-operative farms , consolidation of holdings etc.

The prime aim of Gandhian plan is the attainment of maximum self sufficiency in village community . Hence the plan emphasises the rehabilitation , development and expansion of cottage industries too. As per Gandhian role model employment oriented planning has to be replaced by production oriented planning. During economic planning framework Dr.Gadgil had concentrated on Gandhian model of growth.

3.2.D Dadabhai Naoroji (1825 – 1917):

Dadabhai Naoroji is known for his “Drain Theory”.

Dadabhai Naoroji , a pre independence period reformist who had driven Indian economy at remarkable level. His drain theory has determined the equality in thoughts with Dr.D.R. Gadgil. The drain theory is basically determinant of mobilisation of resources from Indian continent to England. This theory is derived in his book “Poverty and Un- British Rule in India”.

In this theory it is stated that a specific or usual quantum of India’s total national income had been driven to England , but in return to which we could not get any physical reimbursement . And this might be the basic cause of povrty. In 1924 , Dr.D.R.Gadgil in his thesis “Industrial Evolution of India” had said that deterioration of Indian economy is only due to selfish policies of British Government in India.

During British Rule pre finished and immature resources were driven to England for processing and afterwards finished goods were marketed in India. This had created unemployment of Indian farmers and labourers.

3.2 E His Highness Shri Shahu Maharaj:

“The Chatrapati” of Kolhapur region was a king reformist of the society.

Societal development is depend on overall development of other sectors and Shri Shahu Maharaj has emphasised only on this contention.

In view to this Shahu Maharaj had established may more policies in co-operation , education , industries and trading etc. His main area of working was Kolhapur region , but it had made a role model for others. Shir Shahu Maharaj is said to be The King of Commons. He had started co-operative textile mill in 1906 , which later renowned as “Shahu Mill” at Kolhapur.

Kolhapur is renowned for sugarcane production and related industries over it. Keeping in view that mindset , Shri Shahu Maharaj had initiated steps in formation of “Gur Market” at Kolahpur. For this he had offered many subsidies to the traders from

Mumbai , Pune , Nipani , Hubli, so that all could have started their trading activities in Kolhapur .And now Kolhapur is seems to be internationally renowned market for “Gur” Shri.Shahu Maharaj had emphasised on creation of economically developed society ; by which national growth could be achieved. His other areas of work were education and hostels for backward people ; reservation for backward classes , Kolhapur Type of Weirs and irrigation networking. etc. Out of this Kolhapur Type Weir has made a history at internationally and it was notified by every nation.

Dr.D.R.Gadgil was influenced with the work of Shri Shahu Maharaj. He was of the views that if agricultural processing activity had been reserved to the co-operative sector , it would have helped to improve the rural and agricultural economy. This is nothing but agro-industrial co-operative commonwealth. And we could strongly say that Dr.Gadgil might have got inspiration from Chatrapati Shahu Maharaj , because his work in co-operative , industrial and allied sectors defines equality of thoughts with Shri Shahu Maharaj.

3.3 Summery:

The basic theme of Dr.Gadgil’s work was his societal outlook .He was much awared with all sections of society. And accordingly he had defined his area of contribution for it.

As a Dy.Chairman of Planning Commission , Dr.Gadgil had drawn green revolution in India . Contributed well in co-operative , educational and industrial sectors too. Other reformists which would have made impact on Dr.Gadgil were Lokmanya Tilak , Gopalkrishna Gokhale , Dr.B.R.Ambedkar , Sant Gadage Maharaj and Karmveer Bhaurao Patil etc.

Dr.Gadgil was engaged with Rayat Shikshan Sanstha from 1948 to 1966. During this period he was elected as a Vice Chairman and Trustee for Rayat Shikshan Sanstha . In his memory Rayat Shikshan Sanstha has started a commerce college in 1971. Which is now known as Dhananjayrao Gadgil Commerce College , Satara.

To know Dr.Gadgil’s area of work is a very vast task . So in short we can just say “SKY IS THE LIMIT ” for Dr.Gadgil’s work.