



BHAGATSINGH: AN ECONOMIC VISIONARY

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Abstract:

The British East India Company came to India as trader and came to know about the weakness of the central power, they took financial advantage from local kings and nawabs on the sake of trading policy. The British Government started to rule in India as per the Government of India Act 1858 after the revolt of 1857. 'Drain of wealth' theory revealed the loot of the Britishers in India. Bhagat Singh blamed the capitalists of Indian as well as the Britishers for poverty of Indian people. He was inspired from the Russian Socialist Revolution, 1917. He wanted to implement socialism in India.

Key Words: 'Drain of Wealth', Capitalists, Socialists, Marxism, Economic Nationalism, Writings of Lenin and Marx, 'Trade Dispute Bill'

The British East India Company was attracted towards India to see its prosperity. As a trader, they entered India and gradually acquired political settlement after battle of Plassey in 1757. The British Government got power to rule over India from The British East India company with reference of Govt of India Act 1858 and looted India.

There were many social reformers in India who did noble works and for the welfare of the society. Money plays an important role to uplift the living standard of one as well as society. If a person is economically sound, he can think about the welfare of others and give creative contribution in the society. There were many freedom fighters like Dadabai Naroji, Ramesh Chander Dutt, Gopal Krishan Gokhale, Bal Gangadhar Tilak who brought a vital issue in front of Indian people that was economic exploitation. This exploitation was not seen in concrete form. Although high rate of tax and land revenue were imposed by the Britishers and it was concerned even of common men. But Dadabhai Naroji and Ramesh Chander Dutt were key proponents of "Economic Nationalism". They told exploitative nature of British rule through the concept "Drain of wealth theory". People aware how the British officials transferred wealth from India to England on the name of pension, wages and allowance.

Bhagat Singh was one of the freedom fighters who was concerned about the exploitation of Laborers and workers. Referring to the workers and peasants he had asked in his last testament, "What difference does it make to them whether Lord Reading is the head of the Indian government or Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas? What difference for a peasant if Sir Tej Bhadur Saprú replaces Lord Reading [1]." Bhagat Singh was an honest revolutionary. He believed in realistic freedom. He was a symbol of freedom struggle and of revolutionary change. He gave more stress on economic freedom than political freedom.

Bhagat Singh is the role model for students and youth of India who are facing critical problems to survive. Only constant efforts and hard work can change the condition of workers and peasants. Each and every moment must be utilized to bring growth by one.

Bhagat Singh's ideology regarding India's economy was firmly rooted in socialism. He believed to establish such a system in which the means of production must be distributed equally, so that all people of different class in society would avail benefit then capitalists. Through socialist revolution we can abolish the discriminations. Bhagat Singh was influenced by Marxist ideas. Economic justice can be achieved through socialist revolution.

He also emphasized on land reform. He was a strong follower to abolish feudal land ownership system. Bhagat did not like that only a few people had the ownership of resources and rest of the people were exploited and had to earn money for owners. He advocated for industrialization to improve economic condition of workers. So that their living standard could be uplifted. Bhagat Singh was greatly inspired by the writings of Marx and Lenin.. The modern day historians give full credit to Bhagat Singh for leading a new trends amongst the revolutionaries. He gave a true nationalist colour to the then evolving Marxist philosophy in India [2]. Marxism is a political and economic ideology that focuses on class struggle and the need to replace capitalism. It was developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. The most liked idea of Marxism was - capitalist class must be abolished. Bhagat Singh preached this idea through his writings. He favoured that working class should stand up and take control of the society. He also emphasized the Idea that the state should control the means of productions. He wanted to transform society from capitalist to socialist. Workers and peasants must try to keep control over resources. According to Bhagat Singh class struggle is the dynamic force to bring change in the society.

Working class is asset for a nation. One could easily imagine how deeply Bhagat Singh was concerned with miseries of the poor and to what extent he respected them. Once he said, "I see only one person with respect and affection and he is none else than a poor labourer, who produces wealth of the world [3]." Bhagat Singh did not differentiate between exploiter whether he was from India or from England. Those who exploit poor laborers and peasants for their own benefit, they are the enemies of the country. Only laborers are the real foundation for the development of the society. Bhagat Singh was a great public leader who wanted permanent peace based on equality and justice. He was not the supporter of the fake and false peace. He wanted to bring change in the society through the revolution of working class, then socialism ideology could be implemented practically otherwise capitalism would emerge in different form to exploit poor people.

According to the Bhagat Singh if a person is economically self-dependent, he or she can give remarkable contribution to make a strong Nation. The most important day of the trial of Bhagat Singh was 6th June 1929, when Bhagat Singh and B.K Dutt made their historic court-statement. It was chiefly drafted by Bhagat Singh and read by Mr. Asif Ali on their behalf. As we know Bhagat Singh cleared the objective to drop the bomb in assembly that was to make the deaf hear. Apart of it, Bhagat also mentioned about the labourers and workers' contribution in the society in that court statement. He wrote "Revolution is an

inalienable right of mankind. Freedom is an imperishable birth right of all; labour is a the real sustainer of society; sovereignty of the people is a the ultimate destiny of the workers" [4].

In a capitalist regime, the whole machinery of democracy operates to keep the ruling class minority in power through the suffrage of the working class majority and when the bourgeois government feels itself endangered by democratic institutions such institutions are often crushed without compunction [5].

When working class would be strong, capitalists automatically would be isolated then exploitation rate would be zero. Social discrimination is the poison for the society. Labourers and workers are still discriminated not for their caste but also for weak economic condition. Therefore, Bhagat Singh focused on to be economically reliant. He suggested to adopt socialism as motto of the party. 'The Hindustan Republican Association' was revived with a new and highly significant name as 'The Hindustan Socialist Republican Association'

Bhagat Singh was very keen to get opportunity to interact with youth so that they could awake the workers and poor people of the society against exploitation. If a person does not have sufficient source of income to live his or her life how he or she can give contribution in the development of the society. As per Bhagat Singh, capitalism is not good for society, it creates discrimination in the society. When working class and peasants will be stakeholders in the ruling system, then poor people friendly policy will be prepared and then one man cannot exploit other man.

The main objective of imperialism is to overcome all kinds of resources of slave country. Bhagat Singh wanted to protest imperialism to prepare youth so that they could help to form a new system in which they would have been no place for Lordism and federalism. Capitalist are enemies of the country because they use resources as well as working class for getting their own financial profit. All resources of the country must be distributed equally among common men of the society then there will not be discrimination in the society.

Laborers are the real heroes of the country who maintain the economy. By dropping bomb in central Assembly, he wanted to draw attention of the imperialistic English government, but we cannot forget that 'The Trade Dispute Bill' was going to pass in that assembly, the bill was closely associated with working class. 'The Trade Dispute Act of 1929 was a law in India that established tribunals to settle industrial disputes. The act also restricted strikes and lockouts in certain industries. In other words it is read that through this act freedom of demanding rights by a worker was banned by the English government.

This was the praise of youth who demanded equality and socialism for all by another mass leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. One hand Dadabhai Naoroji raised the question of 'Drain of Wealth'. Other hand, Bhagat Singh told it would not be stopped if working classes and farmers would not be a part of administration. Capitalist ideology changes the face not the system.

Britishers for foreigners and they came to India to earn money through trade, they were Indian capitalists who initially joined the Britishers for financial benefits. whenever Great Economic Depression came in the world or benefit of Indian traders was affected they joined mass movement of Gandhiji. No traders, no money lenders, no capitalists joined revolutionary movement only exploited classes or youth joined as they thought this moment would change their current circumstances.

Bhagat Singh always thought about the bad condition of poor people in the society. He used court as platform from where he could easily deliver his ideas to the masses. He said in the court through his advocate Asif Ali:

"Despite being a major part of society, today laborers are deprived of their basic rights and all the hard money is usurped by exploitatative capitalists. The farmers who provide food for others are themselves struggling for every grain with their family today.

The weaver who provides clothes to market all over the world is unable to find enough clothes to cover himself and his children. The masons, blacksmiths and carpenters who built beautiful palaces end up spending their lives in dirty slums. In contrast, leach like exploiting capitalists of society squander millions trivial matters .This terrible inequality and forcibly imposed discrimination are leading the world towards a major upheaval [6]."

Bhagat Singh's economic ideology is showing how concerned he was about the poor working class. Bhagat Singh had also concluded that in the absence of social and economic equality, political freedom would actually be freedom for a few to exploit. The majority of each and every person of the society who is enjoying all kind of freedom, that person must pay off debts who are people because whatever we have it is because of hard work of poor people.

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