

M.K. Gandhi was a great freedom fighter and a great controversial leader of ~~the~~ nonviolence movement for achieving India's freedom. His economic ideas are based on the philosophy of non-violence and truth. To him, economics was simply a way of life and hence his economic ideas are merely a part of his general philosophy of life. Below we make an appraisal of his contribution in following areas :-

(A) Village self-sufficiency or Gram Swaraj

The main principle of Gandhian approach is to set up a system of village self-sufficiency. He found that the progress of the country lies in the development of majority of its rural villages, develop rural economy, industry and ~~the~~ rural skills. He held his conviction by saying that "If village perishes, India will perish too".

In his hypothesis of Gram Swaraj, M.K. Gandhi explained that every village should produce all needed crops, food and non-food items. Each village should possibly produce its own goods - cloth, shoes and leather products and similarly, a village should

have essential social amenities such as school, hospital, entertainment facilities and play ground. Gandhiji's assumption was that India lives in villages and majority of its population depends on agriculture and its allied occupations. In case the dream Swaraj is established, India would get naturally an economic freedom and would stand as a prosperous and independent country in the world.

Khadi Industry :- Gandhiji believed that multiplication of mills could not solve the problem of cloth supply, therefore, he stressed the development of khadi industry. For Gandhiji khadi was the symbol of unity of Indian humanity of its economic freedom and equity equality. Khadi movement began only after Gandhiji's return from South-Africa. He believed that khadi industry would save millions of people from starvation and would supplement the earnings of poor people. Gandhiji advocated the use of charkha due to its advantages. It requires a small amount of capital. It is a source of steady income, it does not depend on monsoon. His slogan was "Swaraj through spinning." Gandhiji's khadi scheme ~~is~~ encompassed the following :-
compulsory spinning in all primary and secondary schools

- (M) cultivation of cotton in areas where it was not grown.
- (N) control of prices of handloom cloth woven of mill yarn.
- (O) use of hand-spun cloth in all govt. and textile and weaving departments.
- (P) Import of foreign yarn or cloth should be banned.

3) Cottage Industry :- handhiji was not in favour of large-scale industrialisation as it was responsible for many socio-economic evils. He believed that large scale use of machinery led to druid-gery and monotony. He was in favour of decentralised economy. In such an economy, exploitation of labour would be nil. According to him, India has plenty of human resources but capital supply was poor, therefore labour intensive technology should be followed. As handhiji was for the development of cottage and rural industries, he suggested decentralization of industries. He suggested that decentralisation was essential for the survival of democracy. He wanted to carry the production units to the homes of the masses, particularly in villages. cottage industries help increasing employment. There

is no problem of storage, Transport cost is negligible. There is no over production and wastes of competition. All these factors make the production economical and thus provide logic to the Gandhian scheme of decentralisation of village and cottage industries.