

ECONOMIC GROWTH OF INDIA : A LITERARY AND CINEMATIC PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Societies are invariably dynamic, evolving and reinventing themselves. The very concept of life is inextricably entwined with idea of progress. Be it animals, plants or human world, everything is under process of continuous change. But when it comes to human life, economic aspect of life gets sacrosanct value. It was Karl Marx, a German thinker, who first made us realize the value of economic structures and how they tend to impact human societies and their lifestyles. India, is no exception in this regard. The history of India as a nation is a mesmerizing story of evolving, progress and surmounting all those odds which emerged as bottlenecks in economic development of this country. The entrepreneurship has undoubtedly played role of a catalytic agent in this transformation which helped us to emerge from a most insignificant country to a global power of 21st century. Right from Tatas to modern day entrepreneurs, this country is permanently indebted to all those audacious spirits who lead this nation from front and helped it to mitigate woes of impoverished masses. Besides, a fact finding on actual ground, a cinematic as well as literary perspective will also immensely contribute to our understanding of India. It is through Bollywood and Indian literature we have a fair idea of India's growth story.

Key words:

Societies, Evolving, Entrepreneurship, Films

LOOKING THROUGH EARLY HISTORY

Before we pass any hasty judgement or jump to any conclusion, we need to make a holistic survey of Indian history so we may fully grasp the importance of economic progress this country has made in last few decades. A closer look at Indian history reveals that Indians were, by default, entrepreneurs. The excavations from Indus valley civilization have proved that we were finest in field of sanitation and urban planning. The findings of granaries, bathrooms and bricks show how our ancestors were men of

Entrepreneurship and Economic Development of India

substance who left no stone unturned for ensuring a healthy lifestyles to it's inhabitants. This was precisely due to this fact Mark Twain lavished high praise on India :

“... The land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and fabulous poverty, of splendor and rags, of palaces and hovels, of famine and pestilence, of genii and giants and Aladdin lamps, of tigers and elephants, the cobra and the jungle, the country of hundred nations and a hundred tongues, of a thousand religions and two million gods, cradle of the human race, birthplace of human speech, mother of history, grandmother of legend, great-grandmother of traditions, whose yesterday's bear date with the moldering antiquities for the rest of nations-the one sole country under the sun that is endowed with an imperishable interest for alien prince and alien peasant, for lettered and ignorant, wise and fool, rich and poor, bond and free, the one land that all men desire to see, and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for the shows of all the rest of the world combined.”

Though above lines indicate how we shared some negative traits, yet we showed the way to world in many respects. However, a dark phase of our social and economic life began when India was dominated and ruled by foreigners. It was a period when our Economic progress staggered. However it was during British regime Indian economy underwent its worst phase. The periods of earlier rulers were rather stable and prosperous but it was with advent of East India Company in 1600, unprecedented loot of Indian treasury began. Britishers came here with a specific agenda and did everything to loot this country. All laws were formulated in order to expedite their plunder. Dada Bhai Narojee, grand old man of India, was first to propound and spread wealth drain theory. He made a painstaking effort of calculating per capita national income of India. He reprimanded British rule in his popular book, “Poverty and Un-British Rule in India”, he indicted exploitative regime and observed :

Financially: All attention is engrossed in devising new modes of taxation, without any adequate effort to increase the means of the people to pay; and the consequent vexation and oppressiveness of the taxes imposed, imperial and local. Inequitable financial relations between England and India, i.e., the political debt of 100,000,000 clapped on India's shoulders, and all home charges also...

Materially: The political drain, up to this time, from India to England, of above, 500,000,000, at the lowest computation, in principal alone...The further continuation of this drain at the rate, at present, of above, 12,000,000 per annum, with a tendency to increase. “

This cycle of exploitation went on devouring all vitals of Indian Economic system. Though certain reforms were introduced in patches, but they failed to produce any desired results.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AFTER INDEPENDENCE

Eventually India was declared a free and sovereign nation in 1947 and took responsibility for its own growth and Prosperity . Wasting no time, Indian government allowed private entrepreneurs to come forward and extend a helping hand to government in changing destiny of nation. A lot of reforms were introduced. The industrialist like Tata, an iconic entrepreneur of India invested huge money in new projects. The union and state governments of India infused large sum of public money in infrastructure to boost the economy. The steel plants which were started in first decade of Indian independence went a long way in fueling our economy. Land reforms were introduced to mitigate pain of farmers who were crushed under weight of feudalism. The Govt. of India unfurled a couple of sweeping measures which proved to be milestones in coming years.

The nationalization of banks in 1969 was a historic step to promote entrepreneurs among Indians. It made young and struggling entrepreneurs of India access to easy loans which play a sacrosanct role in changing Economic landscape of our country. Green revolution also encouraged Entrepreneurship among farmers who went leaps and bounds to make India food bowl of world. The north India took the lead and helped government in abolished crushing food shortage of country. However, notwithstanding all these monumental changes, our economy was still in shambles. Entrepreneurs of the country still faced acute crunch of liquidity to invest in big projects. The another perceptible change in our economy came with liberalization phase of 1992. It was a decisive period in our history. Under severe pressure of World Bank, Indian government pushed another reforming agenda and opened economy for private investors.

Now in the ongoing decade our government has come out with certain innovative concepts like 'Skill India', "Make In India" and other programs to promote young entrepreneurs to come forward and help this country to grow. The loans are made available at cheaper Interest rates. The youth is expected to create jobs instead of findings them. Start ups are offered end number of facilities to lead the country. Enough has been done to curb menace of black money. Digitalization is top agenda of government to put reigns on corruption. Technology has helped our entrepreneurs to make India a global Economic power. Hence, it goes beyond doubt that today India is a leading Economic power of world. The spirit of Entrepreneurship is very high among Indians. Our GDP tells an optimistic story.

LITERARY AND CINEMATIC PERSPECTIVE

Though it falls in jurisdiction of economists to give final verdict about progress of a nation, yet there are some other sources as well which help us to have a better understanding of things. Literary perspective is one of them. As we all know literature is a reflection of human society. Every writer consciously or unconsciously records his impressions in his creations. Same is true about our economic growth. There are prominent writers like R.K Narayan, Raja Rao, Milk Raj Anand and contemporary novelists like Vikram Seth and Manju Kapoor who in their own manner give great insights into our economic development. Going through their works one feels that Indian economy no doubt has soared by leaps and bounds in recent time, yet the gap between poor and rich is still a big concern for us. Similarly films like "Mother India", "Naya Daur" and recent movies like 'Corporate' or "Fashion" tell us a horrible tale of this uneven progress.

Conclusion

Though we have come a long way after independence and accomplished many milestones in field of Economic progress and prosperity, yet much needs to be done. Our country is still mired by regional disparity and unequal distribution of wealth. We need to have a rigorous discipline as far as distribution of wealth is concerned. We are living in a world where Economic progress divested of happiness means little. The objective of our progress must be welfare of common man. The steps must be taken to bring our masses out of that vicious cycle which tends to play spoilsport in their lives. At last, we need to remember what Gandhi Jee said : I will give you a Talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test.

Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him.

Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to control over his own life and destiny?

In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubts and your self melts away." – Mahatma Gandhi

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