

## “Economic Ideology Of Subhash Chandra Bose: Its’ Relevance In India And This Contemporary Era”

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### ABSTRACT

*Subhash Chandra Bose was one of the greatest freedom fighters and visionaries of India. There was a lot of discussion about his political, social and military ideology, but his economic ideology came to the fore very limited. According to Bose, liberty broadly signified political, economic and social freedom. For him economic freedom was the essence of social and political freedom. He wanted initially we should have authoritarian rule which was necessary for disciplined then we should follow democracy, freedom fascism. He favoured western socialism i.e. industrialization. He considered mass production necessary for survival and dignity. He wanted a strong Central Government as the only solution to India's problem. In 1938, for the first time in Haripura, he proposed to constitute a planning committee for comprehensive industrial development. He wanted that on the advice of the National Planning Commission, state would adopt a comprehensive scheme for gradually socializing our agricultural and industrial system in the spheres of both production and distribution. He also spoke about abolition of landlordism and liquidation of agricultural indebtedness. According to him, through rapid industrialization surplus agricultural labour can be absorbed into the industrial sector, unemployment can be removed and the standard of living can be increased. He was the first and ardent advocate of all round modern technical and scientific education for both all. He supported women empowerment, gender equality, regional equality and religious equality, removal of racism and untouchability, which is a fundamental component of economic development. He also incorporated cost benefit analysis into his revolutionary ideas. In this research paper I would like to explore the economic ideology of Subhash Chandra Bose which is relevant in this contemporary world.*

**Key Words:** *Subhash Chandra Bose; Industrialization; Human Capital; Women Empowerment*

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### I. INTRODUCTION:

Before British colonialism, the Indian economy was self-reliant in both agricultural and industrial sectors, but the exploitation policy of the British India Company made the Indian economy dependent. Extreme poverty during British rule was one of the possible indirect causes of the Indian national movement for independence. Subhash Chandra Bose was a keen observer of not only Indian society but also the Indian economy. Due to his continuous travels in the country and abroad, he had clear knowledge of many social problems and their magnitude and remedies. According to Subhash Chandra Bose, the broad meaning of freedom is political, economic and social freedom. He believed that economic freedom is the essence of social and political freedom (Roy, 2004).

For Subhash Chandra Bose, freedom was an all-round freedom, that is, freedom for the individual as well as for society; Freedom for the rich as well as the poor; Freedom for men as well as women; Freedom for all persons and all classes. This independence meant not only freedom from political bondage but also equal distribution of wealth, abolition of caste barriers and social inequalities and destruction of communalism and religious intolerance. He considered socialism necessary to achieve independence (Bose's autobiography, 1948).

In 1938 at Haripura, Subhash Chandra Bose said that our major national problems are poverty, illiteracy, casteism, unemployment, inequality and diseases. To solve these problems scientific production and distribution can be dealt with effectively on a socialist basis. He wanted to unify the country through a strong central Government. He supported the adoption of the Roman script and promoted a common spirit among the entire population through a uniform educational policy. Subhash Chandra Bose emphasized that at least

elementary education should be provided to the Indian people as early as possible. He established the National Planning Committee as a comprehensive plan for rapid industrialization in India to solve the economic problems.

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE SYUDY:**

1. To highlight the economic ideology of Subhash Chandra Bose.
2. To study the relevance of the economic ideology of Subhash Chandra Bose in the contemporary world.

## **III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:**

Subhash Chandra Bose was an outstanding freedom fighter and visionary of modern India. A lot of discussion about his political, social and military ideology is available, but his economic ideology came forward in a very limited way. To fill this gap, his economic ideas in this contemporary era have been studied in this research paper.

## **IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

This research is based on primary sources, such as the autobiography, speeches, letters and interviews of Subhash Chandra Bose, and secondary data. Secondary sources are cross-checked with primary sources and then used as authentic sources.

## **V. LITERATURE REVIEW:**

*Netaji's Ideology: Thesis of the All India Forward Bloc (1949)* revealed that Subhash Chandra Bose was not in favour of the policy of isolation. According to him, there should be foreign policy and international cooperation in the Indian freedom struggle.

*Debnath (2013)* in his book 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: His Philosophy, Political Thought and Contribution' states that Bose condemned fatalism, determinism and the theory of creation but used logical principles in the study of human life, nature and man. He used Perspective, agnosticism, concept of evolution and continuous creativity, accepted uncertainty, relativity and possibility; the author says that Bose socialism was slightly different from the economic determinism and materialism of Marxism. He did not accept the surplus value theory of Marxists and instead expressed the idea of doing some experiments on the money theory of Silvio Gesell. The author has highlighted in detail Bose's views on international relations. Calling for national self-determination and independence of all nations as well as a free world, Bose considered peaceful co-existence and cultural reciprocity as parameters of international relations.

*Goplan, (2016)* revealed in his article that Subhash Chandra Bose had practical experience in Indian industrial relations. He mainly highlights Subhash Chandra Bose's contribution to social reforms in India, and in Indian industrial relations as an outspoken trade union leader and champion of labour welfare.

## **VI. ECONOMIC IDEOLOGY OF SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE:**

Subhash Chandra Bose was one of the great versatile thinkers of India. According to him, freedom means political, economic and social freedom. He wants complete economic independence. His view of economic liberation was that every human being should have the right to work and a living wage. There should be equal opportunities for all, and fair, equitable and just distribution of wealth. For this purpose it should be necessary for the State to control the means of production and distribution of wealth.

Apart from economic equality, he also believed that in complete social equality there would be no caste or class. Bose was a supporter not only of the abolition of caste hierarchy but also of women's equality in social status or law. Gender equality means that women will be equal to men (*Bose, 1965*).

### ***Agricultural Development:***

In Haripura in 1938, Subhash Chandra Bose said that our main challenge would be to eradicate poverty from our country. For this, radical reforms in our land system, agricultural modernization and abolition of the zamindari system will be necessary. Agricultural indebtedness will have to be removed and provision of cheap credit will have to be made for the rural population. Expansion of cooperative society will be necessary for the benefit of both producers and consumers. To increase the yield, irrigation facilities will have to be provided and agriculture will have to be kept on scientific basis (*Bright, 1946*).

With the same thought, the Government of India has also included agriculture and related activities in its priority list. Schemes like Land reform, Kisan Insurance Scheme, cheap loan, e-mandi etc.

UN SDG #2 “Zero Hunger” – Double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, especially women, indigenous people, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, by 2030, including secure and equitable access to land, among others Producers are involved. , To provide resources and inputs,

knowledge, financial services, markets and value addition and non-agricultural employment opportunities ([un.org](http://un.org)).

### ***Industrial Development:***

Subhash Chandra Bose fought bravely for India's independence but for him independence was also economic independence. His views on the economic development of India seem to be derived from a "massive industrialization model" based on indigenous Indian experiences. His idea of the industrialization of India was based on the regeneration and reinvigoration of the industry within the safeguarded village economy. As an initial step in this direction he started the Planning Committee in Haripura in February 1938. According to him, there should be an economic survey of the economy. He presented ideas about economic planning for the entire agricultural and industrial system and a comprehensive industrialization plan in both production and distribution. He said that the National Planning Committee should "first of all concentrate its attention on mother industries, i.e., those industries which successfully carry forward other industries – such as power industries, industries for the production of metals, heavy chemicals, machinery and equipment, and communication industries like railways, telegraph, telephone and radio ([Autobiography of Bose 1948](#)). These ideas were also expressed by Professor Albert Hirschman (1958), in his 'Unbalanced theory of Economic Growth'. Subhash Chandra Bose classified industries into three categories, namely, large scale or heavy industries, medium scale and cottage industries. According to him, large & heavy industries are the backbone of the national economy, but he also emphasizes the development of cottage and small scale industries. He said that through rapid industrialization the surplus agricultural labour could be absorbed into the industrial sector, thereby eliminating unemployment and poverty and raising the standard of living. The same idea was also given by Professor Arthur Lewis in 1954.

The Government of India has taken similar steps as Self-reliant India, Make in India, etc.

UN SDG #9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and by 2030, significantly increase the share of industry in employment and GDP, consistent with national circumstances, and in least developed countries ([un.org](http://un.org)).

### ***Indian Industrial Relations:***

As a nationalist, Subhash Chandra Bose was a strong advocate of employing Indians in all industries operating from Indian soil. His greatest contribution to industrial relations was his ability to inculcate a sense of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the motherland among home-based workers. He believed that Indian trade unions should adopt an anti-imperialist stance. He strongly advocated the 'Tripartite Plan' of industrial relations in which the state Government should play a major role in every area of industrial relations. He considered the state to be an indispensable party in the industrial relations scheme and believed that it was the duty of the state to provide employment to the citizens or to take responsibility for the maintenance of unemployed citizens. He stressed the need for social security and labour welfare programmes ([Gopalan, 2016](#)).

With the advent of liberalization of employers and foreign multinationals in 1991, the analysis of Subhash Chandra Bose's writings and direct action as an industrial relations expert assumes special significance.

United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) #8, 'Decent Work and Economic Growth', aims to protect rights of labour and promote safe working environments for all workers. Urged to take immediate and effective measures to ensure the elimination of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and to prevent and eliminate the worst forms of child labour ([un.org](http://un.org)).

### ***Education:***

According to Subhash Chandra Bose, education is necessary for character building and all-round development of human life. Education brings internal discipline in the form of control or regulation of mind and thoughts. Education enhances a person's character, morale, versatility and independence. The problem of illiteracy was a fundamental problem for him. He well understood the idea of John Stuart Mill that democracy based on universal suffrage should be preceded by universal education and hence, he advocated primary education for all. He suggested that education at the grassroots level should be 'national'. We should take our mental knowledge from the culture of our own country. As a socialist and humanist he wanted mass primary education for all and as an individualist he was in favour of higher education for capable and intelligent students. He believed that education is a great force in bringing out the feeling of national unity and solidarity. He supported modern higher education, especially in scientific and technical fields, to achieve industrial India. He wanted Indian students to be sent abroad for training according to a clear and definite plan so that they could proceed directly to setting up new industries on their return home ([Ahir, 2017](#)).

In the same spirit, the Government of India has also incorporated this idea in previous education policies and the National Education Policy 2020, such as including the 'Right to Education' as a Fundamental Right for children up to 14 years of age.

UN SDG #4 Quality Education – Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary school education by 2030. It also aims to provide equitable access to affordable vocational training and achieve universal access to quality higher education ([un.org](http://un.org)).

***Brain Drain:***

Migration of skilled persons from home to another country to earn money is loss of human capital. The central point of criticism of colonialism was 'extraction theory'. Subhash Chandra Bose strongly opposed the financial drain on the Indian economy. He pointed out that a large part of India's capital and wealth was being transferred to Britain in the form of salaries and pensions of serving British civil and military officers. In India, the profits of the British capitalists took the form of excess of exports over imports. For which India did not get any economic or material reward. According to nationalist calculations, this withdrawal is half the Government revenue, more than the entire land revenue collection and more than a third of India's total savings. He wanted Indian students to be sent abroad for training "according to a clear and definite plan" so that they could proceed directly to setting up new industries as soon as they returned home ([Ahir, 2017](#)).

In the same spirit, the Government of India has adopted a strategy to provide several incentives to our skilled personnel working abroad in the form of 'Ghar Wapsi Abhiyaan'.

***Human Capital:***

Subhash Chandra Bose emphasized investment in human capital and believed that skill formation is an integral part of capital formation. According to him basic and heavy industries cannot develop unless the workers have adequate training to handle sophisticated tools and equipment. He expressed the need to create a permanent National Research Council. This will carry forward research work for the development of science and technology which is extremely important in the process of rapid industrialization. It will also aim to achieve human resource development ([Ghosh, 2006](#)). Subhash Chandra Bose knew the power of 'discipline' through which he channelized the power of youth into productive work.

It is true that the skilled and educated workforce is considered as the real assets of the nation. So, with the objective of providing more facilities to the intellectual and skilled class in terms of higher education, the Government of India has started several programs like Kaushal Vikas Yojana, skill development etc.

SDG # 4 Quality education – Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education and training is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development([un.org](http://un.org)).

***Cost Benefit Analysis:***

As cost benefit analysis refers to a process that assesses the relationship between the costs of an undertaking and the value of the resulting benefits. This economic concept is also revealed in Subhash Chandra Bose's ideology. That is clearly manifested in his famous slogan "Give me blood and I will give you freedom", the price of India's freedom will be the sacrifice of the lives of the people of the country and this will be beneficial for the country.

***Gender Equality:***

Subhash Chandra Bose was one of the prominent and leading supporters of gender equality. He believed not only in empowering women but also in bringing women equal to men. His vision was to create a nation where men and women not only had equal rights but could also perform equal duties. Addressing the first Youth Conference in Nagpur, he had declared that "Every human being is born equal, whether male or female, and shall have equal opportunities for development, this should be our principle." In 1943 he called for women to serve as soldiers in the Indian National Army. She founded the Rani of Jhansi Regiment in which women played combat roles in the war. Subhash Chandra Bose wrote in 1937: "I believe that women will not contribute to the world by imitating or competing with men. She can participate in races, but cannot imitate humans. By doing this she will not be able to reach as high as she could. She has to complement the man" ([Roy, 2004](#)).

Gender equality is an important burning political and social issue promoted by the Indian Government because without the contribution and support of half of the population we cannot achieve our economic and social goals.

UN SDG #5 Gender equality – Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it is also vital for a sustainable future; it is proven that empowering women and girls help in economic growth and development ([un.org](http://un.org)).

**Women Empowerment:**

Subhash Chandra Bose wanted women to get all-round education including not only literacy but also physical and vocational training. He wanted women to play a larger role in India's future economic development. He insisted that there should be a separate Planning Commission for women. He was against all those traditions which kept women in bondage. He believed in liberating women from age-old customs and man-made social, economic and political inertia. Subhash Chandra Bose's ideal women were free from constraints, equal to men, taking greater and more intelligent interest in public affairs. The important thing is that Subhash Chandra Bose did not view them with sympathy. He encouraged Indian women to play an important role in India's independence activities. A women's regiment of Azad Hind Fauj was formed, commanded by Captain Lakshmi Swaminathan ([Autobiography of Bose 1948](#)).

At present, women in India are actively participating in every field, be it the launch of Chandrayaan-3 or any other work, the Government has started programs like 'Mission Shakti' to encourage them more.

UN SDG #5 Gender Equality Increase the use of enabling technologies, especially information and communication technologies, to promote the empowerment of women. The emphasis is on adopting and strengthening concrete policies and enforceable legislation to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women ([un.org](#)).

**Internationalism Or Foreign Aid:**

At present no country or state can develop in trade, commerce, arts, literature, science and all aspects of knowledge of the modern world by staying away from the world, international communication. It is true that international events have political and economic impact on our national life. Nowadays, due to scientific inventions and globalization, space and time have almost negligible, which is why internationalism is considered strong today. Although Subhash Chandra Bose was a great nationalist, he was also an internationalist. He wanted India to promote its culture, religion and literature in different countries of the world and in this regard it should get the opportunity to understand the activities of the League of Nations. He was in favour of accepting foreign aid to achieve independence. He strongly opposed the free trade policy, which was discriminatory in nature and practice. He was not abstained to take advantage of the planned use of combined force to aid the enemies of the British Empire. He was representing the idea of idealism through the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" of the Upanishads i.e. the whole world is one family. His views on international relations were always inclined towards political realism. The idea of political realism in international relations is also determined by "Kautilya's Mandala Theory" ([Abhinav, 2023](#)).

The advent of the New Industrial Policy 1991 i.e. in the LPG era, the world treated as a global village and the recent G20 Summit held in New Delhi on 8-10 October 2023 reflected the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' before the world.

SDG #17 Partnerships for Goals – The world is more interconnected than ever. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, while also promoting investment for the least developed, is vital for sustainable growth and development ([un.org](#)).

**Swadeshi And Nationalism:**

According to Subhash Chandra Bose, nationalism is not only a political movement but also an ethical one. Its moral aspect is reflected in the adoption of 'Swadeshi' which was a common cause of religious practice. Because when someone buys an indigenous product, even if it is of worst quality and high price, he helps the country. He was in favour of boycotting foreign goods ([Ghosh, 2006](#)).

In this way a combination of sacrifice for the indigenous nation and improvement in indigenous industry can be ensured. Presently, the Government of India has started Make in India, Local to Vocal etc.

Similarly, the United Nations in its SDG #9 promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization in industry, innovation and infrastructure and significantly increases the share of industry in employment and GDP by 2030, to increase access to small scale industries especially in developing countries ([un.org](#)).

**Socialism:**

Socialism has four foundations, national independence, economic equality, social equality and gender equality. Subhash Chandra Bose believed that India should have its own indigenous socialism and should not copy the lifestyle of others. Addressing the Indian Youth Conference in 1931, he said, "If we make a comparative analysis of the various social and political ideals which have inspired human effort and activity through the centuries, we will arrive at certain general principles which should form the basis of our development." He believed that the Bolshevik socialism of the Soviet Union was not suitable for India. He also warned against the inappropriateness of Marxist surplus value ideas. According to Bose, despite the wide

diversity in Indian culture, religion, languages etc., only those socialist principles should be assimilated which are in line with Indian needs.

This idea is echoed in UN SDG #11 on "Sustainable Cities and Communities", which strengthens efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage ([un.org](https://un.org)).

## VII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

Subhash Chandra Bose was one of the important architects of modern India. His economic ideas are very relevant in the present scenario, as we also see these in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Visionary and pioneering, Subhash Chandra Bose was an energetic, magnetic and inspiring speaker. His verbal talent was admirable and wonderful, reflecting his command of words, freshness of thoughts and richness of emotions in addressing the serious problems of pre-independence India. He first and foremost started activities like involving youth in voluntary and productive work, women empowerment, gender equality, abolition of caste system, zamindari system and social and religious superstitions, boycott of British goods. His excellent analysis of the national and international economic and political situation included a clear road map of India's economy, the need for cooperatives for the future social order, family planning, economic planning, rapid industrialization, scientific farming, federal form of the Constitution, foreign collaboration. Reconstruction included, eliminating illiteracy, poverty and diseases, to unite India and its cultural autonomy, to develop its own language and common script, to solve the problems of minorities, to maintain fundamental rights, to increase human capital etc. Clearly, all the above objectives are on the priority list both in India and the world.

To achieve these objectives, there is a need for a strong multi-level collaboration between the nations of world all citizens, politicians, intellectuals and scientists.

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