

Ideas of Social Justice of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj: Its Relevance in Open Economy

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Abstract:

The ideas of Social Justice of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj are discussed with the connection of open economy. He considered stability and security as tools of social justice especially in the economic sphere with the adoption of new advancements in his Karveer State. Now day where all economical practices are under the control of the free market. In such a situation the ideas of Social Justice of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj are very relevant which are discussed in this paper. Analytically it is elaborated that Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj identified the importance of stability and security for the entrepreneurs, farmers and public and he had taken decisions accordingly in his state.

Introduction: Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj is a well-known reformer in India. He was a Prince of Karveer State in British India. He contributed to Social, Religious, Political and Economic reforms. He had taken very advanced steps in the field of Society, Administration, Governance, Agriculture, Economy and so on. He had made provisions and taken efforts to establish industries, to develop trades, to advancements in the agriculture sector in his State. With the adoption of new advancements, he was considered stability and security as tools of social justice especially in the economic sphere. His ideas about social justice are discussed in this paper. The world is now an open economy. In the open market, trade and business to be free and boundary less. Government control and intervention are more less. The question of stability and security of traders, farmers and common people (Customer) is very crucial in an open economy. Because all economical practices are under the control of the free market. In such a situation the ideas of Social Justice of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj are very relevant which are discussed in this paper.

Keywords:

Social Justice: a general definition of social justice as a state of affairs in which (a) benefits and burdens in society are dispersed in accordance with some allocation principle (or set of principles); (b) procedures, norms, and rules that govern political and other form of decision making preserve the basic rights, liberties, and entitlements of individuals and groups; and © Human beings are treated with dignity and respect not only by authorities but also by other relevant social actors, including fellow citizens. The three aspects of our definition correspond, roughly, to distributive, *procedural*, and *interactional* justice. (Jost & Kay, 2010).

Open economy: In the open economy goods and services exchanges with other countries. Open economy is concerned to Firms, Households, Financial Services and Government. Advantages of the open economy are free trade, investment opportunities and more goods and services.

Stability and security: The term stability is used for the assurance in business and trade. Security refers that assurance of government support to the people of the State in critical conditions.

Methodology: The research paper accomplished to explain the ideas of social justice of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj and analysed the relevance of it in the open economy with the hypothesis of 'Stability and security is most essential to the entrepreneurs, farmers and common people (consumer). As a State it was considered by the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj. Analytical method with secondary data of source is used to complete the work. Citations are in APA style.

Conclusion and Discussion: After the study it is clear that Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj identified the importance of stability and security for the entrepreneurs, farmers and public and he had taken decisions accordingly in his state. This is a very relevant idea of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj to provide assurance of stability and security to protect the interests of the entrepreneurs, farmers and public in the new economy. Following points are clearly elaborated on the relevance of the ideas of Social Justice of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in open economy.

1. Government notification issued on 18th April 1912, informed the people that a plot was allotted to *Rao Bahadur Ramchandra Raghunath Shirgaonkar* to start an Oil Mill in *Shahupuri*, Kolhapur. Further mentioned that no other person would be allowed to start the same, in any part of the *Karveer* area for next 5 years. (Sangave Vilas, 1994, p. 199). Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj considerate following points for the economic justice. First, assurance of Industrial stability to motivate industrialization than an open competitive market. Second, created secure zones for Industrial investment. Third, reduced possibility of economic losses. Mr. *Dattu Babaji Karajgar* a businessman who founded a business at Kolhapur, also granted assurance of business monopoly for 10 years. (Sangave Vilas, 1994, p. 341).

2. Another important decision was taken by the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj in the favour of the consumers or *Rayat* (Citizens of the State). There was wooden and stone weight that had been used to sell fuel. Special government notification was received on 12th June, 1900, wooden and stone weights in the trade were banned and replaced by iron weights. It was mandatory to the traders. Government provided standard iron weights at prescribed rates from The *Mamledar* of *Karveer Peta*. (Sangave Vilas, 1988, p. 14).

3. In the open economy traders try to raise prices of food grains to get more benefits in scarcity of it. It is a burden on the common people. Shahu Maharaj made provision of an Inflation Control Officer as control authority of the prices. He adopted the license method for traders. Moreover, he started Food Grain Supply Institutions to provide foods at a reasonable rate for the poor. He was made provision to reduce monetary exploitation from the traders. He was suggested to the British government to get food grains stock under the control of the government to tackle Fimian effects. Everyone should get assurance of minimum food. Government should collect food and grains from available areas and supply them to required areas. (Keer Dhananjay, 2020, p. 380).

4. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj issued the notification on 14th may 1895 in the favour of the poor. By the notification, the government had taken responsibility to provide fodder to sick cattle belonging to poor people who admitted their cattle in the veterinary dispensary at Kolhapur. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj was well aware of his social responsibility. He had taken a benevolent step that states must take initiative to help their citizens in needy situations. (Sangave, Mane, 1983/2012, p. 79).

5. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj presented a note on the question of agriculture and its development in Kolhapur state at the conference of Indian chips and princess held in Delhi on 13th and 31st October 1916. In this note he sorts out the position of farmers, their weaknesses and solutions to overcome these weaknesses. He said that 80% of the population of a country is dependent on the agricultural industry. Indian cultivators know their business. They used crude methods which are suitable to their economic conditions. They better understand possibilities but they have some limitations and disabilities. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj pointed out four kinds of disabilities of farmers. First, ignorance and illiteracy. Second, lack of cheap capital. Third, their smallness of holding and fourth, an organization where they can sell their product. Further he said that the solution to the disabilities first is to spread education among them that will reduce illiteracy and make them capable of tackling their problem. Second, establishment of co-operative societies where the farmers can gain cheap capital which they require. Third, to

stop the small holdings we can only limit the fragmentation of the survey number, another way to reduce smallness of the holdings can be minimized, that is encouragement to emigration to East Africa. Indian soldiers fighting for the British Empire in Africa and land which was attained by the British from Germans can be distributed to Indian soldiers as a reward of their loyalty and bravery in the war. (In this note Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj did not mention in detail the making of an organization to sell the products of the farmers.). (Sangave Vilas, 1997, pp. 254-255). Regarding this he started compulsory primary education in Kolhapur state, motivated and helped to establish cooperative society and he passed a resolution which controlled small holdings.

6. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj sanctioned the rule by which agriculturists could graze their cattle in the protected forest in the state. (Sangave, Mane, 1983/2012, p. 186).

7. Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj made a very important proposal to the Government of Bombay that was introducing minimum food security or rationing in India. He explained that "I wish to make one proposal as the goods trains for the import of food grains are going to all together stop from the next month, in that case there would, I fear, be great panic. On our side there would, I am afraid, be a perfect famine and no foodstuffs. What I have to propose is that the British Government should take charge of all State and British Indian foodstuffs and give a certain quantity of food to every man as it is done in England." (Sangave Vilas, 2001, p. 134).

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