

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN AND SWADESHI

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ABSTRACT

The covid-19 pandemic has changed the economic and social infrastructure of India and other countries. The world is now standing at the verge of a heavy economical breakdown. The government by starting this campaign of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan has led a true Swadeshi movement. However, in the quest to attain a self-reliant India, it is necessary for the government to decentralize its policies, take decisions for rural crowd and labors, keep poor and underprivileged at priority, and make environmental friendly policies that are rooted to make India and a self-sufficient nation globally. In history, when India believed in the Gandhi's model of self-reliance, wonders happened. He articulated it as a social interdependence and mutual co-operation in a society. On the contrary today, a virus has violated our independence, but we all shall 'be vocal for local' and adapt to new lifestyle of being mutually interdependent and become empowered.

This article aims to examine how Gandhi is relevant today even in corona pandemic time. Finally concluded with in the present global scenario, though, it seen difficult to follow a close door policy, yet it should not be an open policy as well. Implementation of economic reforms did not bring substantial changes due to which most of the developing nations are facing many fold economic problems today. We need to have **Economic reforms** along with **Gandhian reforms**

KEYWORDS: Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, Vocal for Local, Swadeshi, Self-reliance.

I) Introduction

It is urgent need of hour to discuss the problems facing by Indian Economy toady i.e. Corona Pandemic problem. This problem is facing by almost all the countries in the world and hence it is globalproblem. Corona disease first time emerge in Wuhan City in China and then spread all over the world.

Two types of measures are adopted in India to control the spread of corona virus infection.

i) Lockdown and ii) Maintaining physical distancing.

Because of lockdown economic activities are severely affected. Industries are shut down, agriculture is shut down, corona pandemic affected to almost all economic activities in all sectors of Indian economy. From 2017 there was recession in Indian economy. COVID 19 corona pandemic lockdown affected almost all economic activities in all sectors of Indian economy. IMF predicted that GDP will come down up to 1.3 %. Rate of employment is only 26 %, Marginal Small and Medium sector contributes 6.11 % of GDP and 45 % share in exports in India. Asian Development Bank says that 2.5 Trillion Dollars are required for rehabilitation of unorganized sector in India.

To start a new chapter in Indian economy, **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** (ANBA) as an idea of India (vision) announced by the Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modiji on May 12, 2020 deserve to be understood, analyzed, interpreted and adopted with positive mind-set and hence the objectives of the study are:

II) Objectives of the study

1. To study various aspects of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
2. To examine the idea of Vocal for Local and Swadeshi.
3. To find out the challenges of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Research Methodology

The present research study is based on secondary data. The information has been collected from published books, Journals, Articles, Newspapers and websites.

III) Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan a stimulus economic package of around Rs.21 Lakh Crore has been allotted for different sectors to restrain the adverse effects of this pandemic in India.

1. First Tranche (Rs. 5, 94,550 crore) – Focused on firming, backbone of Indian economy
2. Second Tranche (Rs.3,10,000 crore) – Poor, including migrants and farmers
3. Third Tranche (Rs. 1,50,000 crore) – Agriculture infrastructure
4. Fourth Tranche (Rs. 8,100 crore) on Schemes for 8 important sectors includes

- 4.1 Coal and mining Commercialisation
 - 4.2 Defense Production
 - 4.3 Minerals Sectors
 - 4.4. Air space management (Civil aviation, Airports and MRO)
 - 4.5 Distribution Companies in UTs (Power Distribution)
 - 4.6 Social Infrastructure Development via Viability Gap Funding
 - 4.7 Space Sectors
 - 4.8 Atomic Energy Reforms
5. Fifth & Final Tranche (Rs. 40,000 Crore) for MGNREGA Fund
6. In other measures RBI Monetary Fund & Policies and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) - Measures for Unprivileged Citizens.

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan rests on 5 important pillars which are portrayed as its salient features which include:

- 1. Economy:** An Economy can be defined as a 'state of a country, area or region which produces and consume goods and services in exchange for monetary benefits'. It is integral for countries in pandemic to strive for balance between globalization and a degree of self-reliance.
- 2. Infrastructure:** The infrastructure is the root of an economy as every business activity can only be established through a better communication, transportation, energy supply chains, distribution networks or financial institution.
- 3. Technology driven system:** In an economy, intervention of the technology has successfully helped in improved operations and lowered cost of setting up a business. It is important for India to establish a system based on technology-driven arrangement to fulfill the dreams of being a self-sustained nation.
- 4. Demography:** The study of human population, including its size, growth, density, distribution and other vital part of statistics is known as demographic economics. India is regarded as the second most populous country in the world with nearly one-fifth of the world population.

5. Supply and demand: In economics, supply and demand is a relationship between the quantity of goods or services that a producer shall wish to sell at various prices and the quantity at which consumer wishes to buy. The self-sustaining India shall witness a demand of goods, wherein the strength of demand and supply chain should be utilized in a full capacity.

IV) Vocal for Local

Being vocal for local is, in the real sense of the term, the recognition and promotion of the intrinsic strength of Indian entrepreneurship waiting to be freed from the shackles of inextricable tangles of land, labour, liquidity and laws as PM Modi pointed out. Swadeshi should be reinterpreted as a bridge between robust localisation and inevitable globalisation, complementary to one another and not diametrically opposed.

The argument that we can suddenly become world-beaters by turning self-sufficient is not convincing. We need, instead, a combination of the best from wherever it is available when required, and making locally for our normal needs. Indians shouldn't be forced to settle for second or third rate products or services just because they have the made-in-India tag. That would be merely another, perhaps worse version, of the failed model of import substitution. Actually, what history proves over and over again is that there is no substitute for quality and competence.

It is time to revive those local industries that were taken for granted. It is time to usher in economic policies that produce welfare, sustainable incomes, help job creation and all in all, puts faith in the people. The sad state of our social sectors is also due to the lack of public expenditure on health and education, which is a side effect of the withdrawal of government from social sector, and handing over these welfare-enhancing sectors to private profiteers. ABA emphasizing 'vocal for local'. To my mind, we should be little diplomatic and use the wisdom for 'Glocalization' meaning thereby think globally and act locally.

V) Gandhian Approach of Swadeshi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on '*Atmanirbhar Bharat*' or self-reliant India is Swadeshi economics in other words. In the Indian context, self-reliance should not mean divorcing international trade. India will have to seriously engage with the region and the world, but at the same time strengthen its own domestic industry by streamlining the governance system

and go far beyond mere amendments and announcements. Swadeshi does not and should not be interpreted as isolation. M.K. Gandhi's Swadeshi movement and self-reliance were two sides of the same coin that would find currency in a globalized world. The idea of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is old wine in a new bottle.

Gandhi visualized a peaceful, non-exploitative social and economic order. India lives in villages. Naturally the development of the country depends on the development of villages. That is why Gandhi has strongly advised development of cottage industries in villages, which will reduce the burden on agriculture. Cottage industry can also work as a good support system for villagers.

A) Self-sufficient Village Economy

Adoption of Self Sufficient Village Economy at rural level will ensure the all round development of villages. Every village must have all the amenities and facilities essential for their development. Top priority should be given to poverty eradication and self-reliance. Global linkages and global collaboration will result in increase of production, employment, income and wealth and improving standard of Living of rural people. It will help to stop outmigration from villages and also reduces the burden of urban cities.

The linking of Gandhi's self-sufficient village economy with global technology will ensure the following:

- a) Development of all basic amenities in villages, no out migration
- b) Purchases of goods and services in local market
- c) Circulation of income within the local community; less income drain
- d) Use of appropriate technology
- e) Bread Labour-Self respect
- f) Cooperative forms of local ownership and control
- g) More effective schooling and hospitals
- h) Healthier families
- i) Women empowerment
- j) Communal harmony
- k) Greater community self-reliance
- l) Inclusive growth and sustainable development
- m) Village Sarvodaya; Welfare of all

B) Urban Economy

Setting up of the industrial estates will be linked up with medium and small town development and establishment of new towns. The towns with growth potential would be identified through comprehensive economic planning and provide with necessary infrastructure and self-contained utilities and ancillary facilities including common technology support centers, industrial corridors, special economic zones and other estates should be setup along with modern transport and communication system. Integrated provision of urban infrastructure and services,

Global–Urban linkages and global collaboration will result in increase in income and wealth, improving standard of living and sustainable development of urban economy. Global –Urban

Linkages and global collaboration will ensure the following:

- a) Development of urban cities/centers
- b) Establishment of large scale and medium scale industries
- c) Improve in urban infrastructure and social overheads
- d) Optimum use of resources
- e) Ecological sustainability
- f) Production for domestic as well as foreign market
- g) High skill and advanced technology
- h) Global collaboration with government control
- i) Sustainable development

C) Balanced Growth

Rural–urban linkages include flows of agricultural and other commodities from rural based producers to urban markets, both for local consumption and forwarding to regional, national and global markets; and, in the opposite direction, reverse flows of manufactured and imported goods from urban centers to rural settlements. Since rural settlement will be economically strong in these rural-urban-global linkages, flows of people moving between rural and urban settlements will be stop or it may be either occasional visits to urban-based services and administrative centers, or migrating temporarily or permanently.

VI) Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan: Challenges

The government announced an economic stimulus package of Rs. around 21 lakh crore and big-bang systemic reforms under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The intended objective of this plan is two-fold. First, interim measures such as liquidity infusion and direct cash transfers for the poor will work as shock absorbers for those in acute stress.

The second, long-term reforms in growth-critical sectors to make them globally competitive and attractive.

Together, these steps may revive the economic activity, impacted by Corona virus pandemic and create new opportunities for growth in sectors like agriculture, MSMEs, power, coal and mining, defence and aviation, etc.

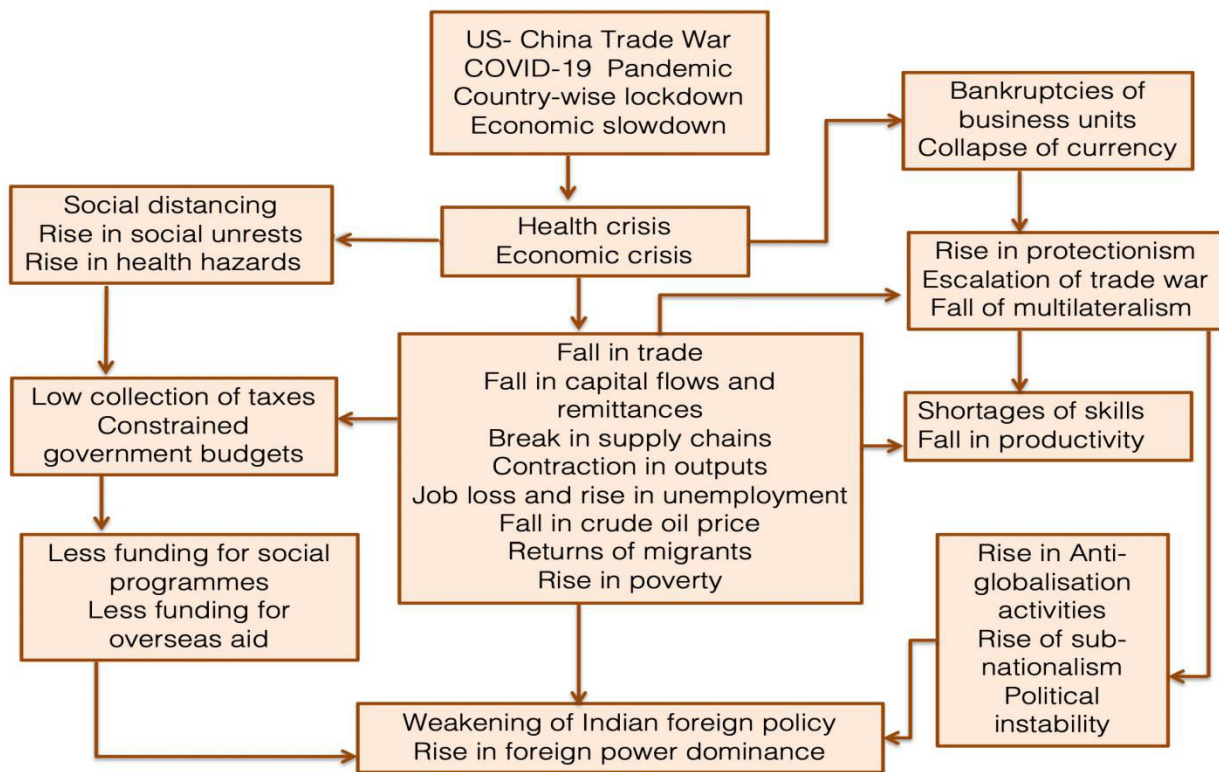
However, there are several challenges that are needed to be addressed in order to fulfill the vision of this plan.

- 1. Issues Related to Liquidity:** The package of Rs 20 lakh crore comprises both fiscal and monetary measures, the latter being in the nature of credit guarantees and liquidity infusions into banks and other financial sector institutions rather than the economy per se. Majority of the package is liquidity measures that are supposed to be transmitted by RBI to Banks and Banks to Citizens. This transmission wouldn't be as smooth owing to inefficient transmission of monetary policy.
- 2. Lack of Demand:** The lockdown has lowered aggregate demand, and a fiscal stimulus is needed. However, the package, by relying overwhelmingly on credit infusion to boost the economy, has failed to recognize that investment will pick up only when people across income segments have money to spend.
- 3. Lack of Backward and Forward Linkages:** Unless the rest of the domestic economy is revived, the MSME sector may face a shortage of demand, and its production may soon sputter to a close.
- 4. Burgeoning Fiscal Deficit:** Government claims that the stimulus package is around 10% of India's GDP. However, financing it would be difficult as the government is worried about containing the fiscal deficit.

5. Difficulty in Mobilizing Finances: The government seeks a disinvestment to mobilise the finances for the plan.

However, the majority of Indian industries are already a bit debt-laden to take up the stake in PSUs. Further, it is difficult to borrow the foreign markets, as rupee with respect to dollar is all time low.

There are many challenges for implementing ABA such as demography as plenty of people, recession, unemployment, farmers’ suicides, white-collar crimes, terrorism, exploitation, discriminations, deprivations and discontent among the stakeholders. There is fall in trade, fall in capital flows and remittances, break in supply chain, contraction in output, rise in poverty are some challenges we are facing. The challenges that Indian economy facing today is shown in following ray diagram.



The covid-19 pandemic has changed the economic and social infrastructure of India and other countries. The world is now standing at the verge of a heavy economical breakdown. Where India is already going through an economic downturn at the same time announcing 10% of the GDP is a tough decision. Many sectors have already gained the relief funds and other measures will be in action soon to the respective sectors. But it depends on time, how these measures and

schemes of Atmanirbhar Bharat will draw a rising curve in India's economic growth. To be successful in ABA, we need to increase domestic saving rate, 'rainbow revolution' in agriculture and commitment, honesty and enthusiasm among all the stake holders.

VII) Conclusion

The government by starting this campaign has led a true Swadeshi movement. However, in the quest to attain a self-reliant India, it is necessary for the government to decentralize its policies, take decisions for rural crowd and labors, keep poor and underprivileged at priority, and make environmental friendly policies that are rooted to make India and a self-sufficient nation globally.

Implementation of economic reforms did not bring substantial changes due to which most of the developing nations are facing many fold economic problems today. No country in the world has followed this pattern for socio-economic reforms. We need to have **Economic reforms** along with **Gandhian reforms**.

The Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan is an important mission for the economic revival and progress of the Indian economy. If implemented effectively, it can help achieve the dream of India being economically stable, technologically superior and self-reliant in its needs.

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