

ECONOMIC THOUGHTS OF GANDHIJI

Prof. Kedar Nath Bishoyi*
Dr. Govinda Chandra Panda**

*Principal & Professor, Department of Political Science, Science College,
Konkorada, Ganjam-761144, Odisha.

**Assistant Professor in Economics, Science College, Konkorada,
Ganjam -761144, Odisha.

ABSTRACT

The Indian National Congress since its inception in 1885 has struggled only to meet the political aspirations of India as a whole. Even, the organization did not like to fight for the economic problems of social base mainly for two reasons. First, the leaders like W. C. Banarjee, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and some extremists found no necessity of keeping any connection between social reforms and political movements with the arguments that an alien government ruled the country. Second, another important reason was the existence of the National Social Conference, which was dealing with the problems pertaining to socioeconomic issues.

But, with the emergence of *M.K. Gandhiji* as the frontline leader of Indian National Congress in 1920 the economic problems of social base were dealt vehemently along with the political movements. *Gandhijan* economic thoughts and its relevance to tackle the present day economic maladies have widely been discussed in various platforms today. Surprisingly, *Gandhiji* is neither an economist nor a disciple of economics. He has never confined himself to any particular school of economic thought i.e. either socialism or capitalism. Rather, his economic ideas itself prove to be a separate school of economic thought. He has his own economic ideas based purely on human, moral, spiritual and ethical values of life. As a matter of fact, he opposes the stock of wealth in fewer hands, accumulation of capital by way of profit, economic activities connect only with the acquisition of wealth and centralization of power and resources. To *Gandhiji*, “Man is not for Wealth, rather Wealth is for Man”