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Antyodaya: A Socialistic Principle of Indian Right Wing

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ABSTRACT

This paper in detail analyzes the principle of Antyodaya in detail. The paper brings out the principle of Antyodaya and Sarvodaya provided by Mahatma Gandhi and later on proposed by Acharya Vinoba Bave and Deen Dayal upadhyay who brought in such old principles to the political philosophy which resulted in formation of Bharatiya Janata Party. This paper also focuses on such scheme which finds the traces of upliftment of all that is the principle of Antyodaya in place. It also studies such schemes in detail. Deen Dayal Upadhyay's thoughts of Integral Humanism has been an evolved concept of Antyodaya principle. This principle has brought in various scheme that reached the grassroots by way of decentralization.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a land of diversity, this reflects even in our idea of thought and ideologies. India has all such ideologies which the world has seen till 21st Century. One such Ideology is 'Antyodaya'. Antyodaya means 'the person standing last in the line should not be left behind' which can be easily traced back to the principle of socialism or communism. In ancient India a ruler is said to be the best only when he follows the path of Antyodaya.

Antyodaya is a Gandhian principle which was inspired by the 'Ram Rajya'. It is also a reframed version of 'Sarvodaya' of Acharya Vinobha Bave. In Ramcharitmanas there are some lines which goes like,

बरसत हरषत लोग सब करषत लखै न कोइ

तुलसी प्रजा सुभाग ते भूप भानु सो होइ।

Which means During the Ram rajya, the tax was collected similar to how Sun evaporates water and causes rain wherever required. Sun takes more water from the ocean and forms into clouds and by raindrops it reaches the dry land. The principle of antyodaya is the socialist concept of welfare state which is philosophically adopted by the right wing dispensation of India. The right wing of India has occupied the power spaces in this second decade of 21st Century. This brings

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their ideology at the helm of power. The principle of antyodaya has been clearly visible in the schemes of the present Union Government like Nal se Jal, Ujwala Yojana and PMAY.

II. SELFLESS SERVICE - POSITIVE IMPACT

The concept of Antyodaya brings in an essential quality of selfless service as a leadership role who is involved in politics or the service of the society or the service of the state. There are various examples of personalities doing selfless service like Nelson Mandela, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi and various other leaders. This principle is also found in ancient India.

यस्यास्ति भूयः सुकृतं यः पराया भक्तिरेव च।

स एव विरतः शास्त्रेषु स सर्वज्ञोपयान्त्रकः ॥²

This verse from mahabharat means, “He alone is virtuous who seeks the good of others. He should be regarded as a true man who does good to others.”

The selfless service is the important principle highlighted in the principle of Antyodaya. Antyodaya brings the concept of welfare state and the role of government and also its impact on the society must be selfless.

The right wing of the Indian dispensation brings the selfless service by an important organization “Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh” which has been also appreciated by sarvodaya leader for their service at the time of cyclone in 1977 at coasts of Andhra Pradesh as ‘Ready for Selfless Service’. Selfless service is also achieved by various aspects of doing service for the society. The RSS brings out the essence of Antyodaya in their concept of social service.

The Right Wing political party of India Bharatiya Janata Party has brought in the schemes like Ujwala, Swachh Bharat, Har Ghar Jal, PMAY, and various infrastructure projects which resulted in bringing the Antyodaya principle effective.

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF SARVODAYA

The principle of antyodaya will finally result in sarvodaya. This was the clear understanding of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi has clearly envisaged the concept of Antyodaya.

'Sarvodaya' is a Sanskrit word consisting of two words 'Sarva' and 'Udaya' meaning all and rising respectively. The expressional meaning of Sarvodaya is the rising of all. This 'all' involves all living beings and majorly we the Human beings. In other words, sarvodaya means welfare of

² Mahabharat, Udyoga Parva, Section 33, Verse, 88

all. This is against the principle in which one man or set of men can gain or enjoy and exclude others. This principle implies the participation of all kinds of people irrespective of creed, class, caste, gender and religion. This principle also stands for the total development of all the subject matter which includes the physical, mental and spiritual of the human being. It is a principle and activity in which we all must partake and it amounts to a full realization of the human capacity of the human soul.

Vinoba Bhave, finds the term Sarvodaya commands a two-fold meaning. Which are

1. making all happy by removing suffering and poverty with the help of scientific knowledge and
2. establishing a world state full with divinity, kindness and equality,

The principle of Sarvodaya aims not at the development of the few or the many, or for that matter the growth of the greatest number; it is not utilitarianism, which stands for the greatest good of the greatest number. It contains the germ of minority and majority. Contrary to utilitarianism, Sarvodaya stands for the good of one and all, of the high and the low, of the strong and the weak, the intelligent as well as the dull.

This principle is against the laissez faire theory, which means the survival of the fittest, whereas the principle of sarvodaya believes in the survival and development of all. According To Acharya Vinoba Bave, "The idea of sarvodaya, as preached by the Gita is to merge oneself in the good of all". The word 'Sarvodaya' is also the name give to Lord Mahavir (Twenty-fourth Tirthankar of Jainism) by a digambara monk Samanthabadra.³

The principle of Sarvodaya, means "the welfare of all," focuses on the upliftment of the society as a whole, by ensuring growth and well-being for all. Whereas on the other hand, Antyodaya, meaning "upliftment of the last person," Which emphasizes the welfare of the most marginalized and disadvantaged individuals in society, also aims to address their needs first. While Sarvodaya looks at the overall welfare of society, Antyodaya specifically targets the upliftment of the poorest and most vulnerable sections.

IV. THE SCHEMES IN WHICH ANTYODAYA HAS BEEN EXECUTED BY INDIAN RIGHT WING

The present dispensation of the Modi Government formed the government in 2014 by a full majority. The BJP has an ideological emphasis on the Principle of Antyodaya as it was given and promoted as an economic policy and social justice mechanism by Deen Dayal Upadhyay,

³ Upadhye, Dr. A. N. (2000). Mahavira His Times and His philosophy of life. Bharatiya Jnanpith. p. 54.

considered to be the idol of BJP. Focusing of this principle the government formed by BJP in 2014 made various schemes to achieve the motives of Antyodaya and such schemes are as follows,

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PM-JDY):

This scheme was started in 2014, the first year of the Modi Government. This scheme has a clear principle of Antyodaya as the objective of this scheme. This scheme has two major objectives which are,

- Financial Inclusion - It is to ensure every citizen of India is connected with Banking system.
- Banking for the poor (person in the last of the line) - this scheme brought in an efficient mechanism to poor by allowing them to open a zero balance account.

This scheme brings in the concept of Antyodaya as the main objective of this scheme is to achieve 100% financial inclusion of people. The motive of Nationalization of Banks during the period of Indira Gandhi was to achieve financial inclusion which does not provide the expected results. However, this scheme not only created financial inclusion but it also resulted further extension by linking bank accounts with Aadhar number and it resulted the implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism which in conclusion resulted in reduction of corruption.

2. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a social welfare initiative by the central government. This is one of the flagship scheme of the present central government. This bring Antyodaya of the poor women whose health is compromised by burning their eyes and lungs in preparation of food. This is also an essential tool to bring clean cooking to protect families from harmful carbon emission. The scheme firstly targets women from economically weaker households who face major health hazards due to prolonged exposure to smoke from traditional cooking fuels where they burn wood to cook food. It recognizes the adverse effects of indoor air pollution on women and children and seeks to improve their overall well-being. Under PMUY, eligible beneficiaries receive a financial assistance of Rs 1,600 to help cover the cost of security deposit for the cylinder and pressure regulator. The scheme also provides interest-free loans to meet the initial cost of the stove and refill. By subsidizing the upfront expenses, PMUY aims to make liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders more accessible to households that would otherwise struggle to afford them. One of the key components of PMUY is the focus on empowerment of women. By providing clean cooking fuel, the scheme contributes to

reducing the time spent by women on collecting firewood, allowing them to engage in more productive activities. It also positively impacts the health of women and children by reducing respiratory ailments caused by exposure to indoor air pollution.

3. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

The present Modi government launched this accident insurance scheme. This scheme was launched to give access to the poor to an accident insurance scheme. We know insurance is the important element of sharing the risk among the society. Earlier it was only limited to the Higher pedestal people only which has now been addressed by this scheme called Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

There are two important eligibility to apply for this scheme,

1. The Applicant must have a savings Bank account
2. The applicant must be of 18 - 70 years of age.

The premium to this insurance is minimal compared to the other accidental insurance.

PMSBY provides accidental death and disability insurance coverage. In case of accidental death, the nominee receives the sum assured, which is usually Rs. 2 lakhs. In case of total and irrecoverable loss of both eyes or loss of use of both hands or feet or loss of sight in one eye and loss of use of one hand or foot, the insured person receives the sum assured.

The scheme is operating based on an annual renewal basis where the individuals need to renew their enrollment every year to continue the coverage. The premium is directly auto-debited from the policyholder's linked savings account, simplifying the renewal process.

The scheme is widely accessible, as it is linked to savings bank accounts held in various banks.

PMSBY is a step towards providing financial security and assistance to individuals and their families in case of accidental events. It encourages broader financial inclusion by offering a crucial insurance cover at an affordable cost, particularly benefiting those who may not have easy access to such insurance products in the open market.

4. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PM - JJBY)

This scheme is launched by the central government to provide a life insurance to the general public in an affordable rate. This scheme was introduced in May month of 2015. This scheme provides life insurance to the weaker section of the society. The premium paid for this scheme is very less compared to the life insurance of other corporations. The eligible group for this scheme lies in between 18 - 50 years of age. This scheme provides a life insurance coverage

upto ₹ 2,00,000 to the single insured person's nominee or the legal heir at the time of the death of insured person.

5. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

The APY is a scheme that provides pension to the unorganized sector workers as Social Security to the workers by having contributed for such benefit. In this scheme age group from 18-40 can be benefitted by paying a small sum of premium. The contribution can be made till the age of 60 years. The amount of pension is depended on the contribution made which may be as less as ₹1000 and as high as ₹5000. The scheme is focused on the unorganized sector employees that it enables the upliftment of the marginalized people which is the main element of principle of Antyodaya.

This scheme has three important pillars of Antyodaya which is,

1. **Social Security** - This scheme promotes social security to those workers who have not stayed in an organized sector. The organized sector receives social benefit by various government legislations like ESI Act, Other pension schemes like National Pension Scheme, while this scheme is for the unorganized sector.
2. **Affordability** - This scheme is affordable for the unorganized sector workers and this scheme promotes the principle of Antyodaya.
3. **Financial Inclusion** - This scheme also ensures financial inclusion of the unorganized sector. This also creates a database to the government about the unorganized sector workers.

6. Saubhagya Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana which is commonly called as Saubhagya Yojana, is a central government initiative launched in September 2017. The important objective of this scheme is to ensure electrification of all households across the country, both in rural and urban areas. Here are some key features of the Saubhagya Yojana:

1. **Universal Electrification:** This scheme promotes the objective of sarvodaya which is universal good for all. The electrification of all is the motive of this scheme.
2. **Free Electricity Connections:** This scheme provides free electricity connections to BPL families, and other households are charged a nominal fee which can be paid in installments. This ensures electrification of all households in rural and urban India.

3. **Last Mile Connectivity:** the principle of Antyodaya is focused on the last Mile connectivity. This scheme is focused on addressing the "last mile" connectivity issues, ensuring that even remote and hard-to-reach areas receive electricity access.

7. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is a central government initiative for a nationwide cleanliness and sanitation campaign launched by the Government of India on the Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti October 2, 2014. This mission has two key components:

1. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) for rural areas and
2. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Campaign) for urban areas.

This scheme has the following objectives,

- Eliminate open defecation.
- Promote cleanliness and hygiene.
- Achieve universal sanitation coverage.
- Effectively manage solid and liquid waste.

The Swachh Bharat Mission aligns with the Antyodaya principle by addressing a fundamental aspect of human dignity—access to clean and safe sanitation facilities. Open defecation disproportionately affects the health and well-being of the economically disadvantaged.

By promoting hygiene and providing toilet facilities, SBM contributes to the dignity, health, and overall quality of life of individuals in marginalized communities, thus embodying the Antyodaya principle in its efforts.

8. Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM - JAY)

This scheme is launched by the present Modi government which is a healthcare insurance scheme. By this scheme the government focuses to provide vulnerable families and health insurance upto ₹5,00,000 per family. This scheme has ensured good health care services to vulnerable families who are at last in line to pay for such high expenses to get the benefits. This makes this scheme suitable for the Antyodaya principle.

V. DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAY ON ANTYODAYA

Deen Dayal Upadhyay is a politician and member of Bharatiya Jan Sangh which later formed into the present day Bharatiya Janata Party. He has been the strong supporter of the principle of Antyodaya. He has always believed the upliftment of the last person in the pedestal will only

bring true social justice. His ideology brings in three important components which are, spirituality, Cultural and economics which forms the integral part of humanism. This is why his ideology of Antyodaya was referred to as Philosophy of Integral Humanism. The ideology of BJP has started evolving from its founders of Jan Sangh leaders like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Deen Dayal Upadhyay. Deen Dayal Upadhyay's political thought has been influenced the socio-economic development of the society. The principle of Antyodaya propagated by him has brought in three important aspects to light which are,

1. Upliftment of the poor
2. Inclusive development and
3. Integral Humanism.

He also advocated decentralization of power because of that the resources can reach to the grassroot level.

VI. CONCLUSION

The principle of Antyodaya though a concept of social upliftment of social welfare has been a transformative approach towards the present government at central. The government has emphasised more of upliftment of the person standing last in the line. Until the benefits reaches to all the beneficiaries who are standing in a society and the last person of such line should also get the same benefit as received. This principle of ideology though have brought in lime light by the stalwart leaders of Congress party like Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Mahatma Gandhi. However the dispensation of the INC and the present Modi government has been taken over this philosophy to be working by various schemes some of them were listed above. The idea of having last mile delivery of social welfare scheme can be effectively done by the use of technology. The technology used in achieving such principle is by way of DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer), increasing digital literacy, Biometric identification of beneficiaries (Aadhar Card), Analysis of Data for achieving targeted schemes are some of the place where technology played an important role in achieving such development.

Thus, to conclude the present right wing of India has utilized the principle of Antyodaya for the betterment of society as a political tool of effective governance. This philosophy though have originated in Indian National Congress but come to effect at the time of present by the Right Wing BJP Government.

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