

## The Concept of Socialism in the Indian Constitution: An Analytical Study

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### Abstract

*Socialism is a form of economics which aims to establish economic equality. It is motivated by the concept of social justice. Socialism is embodied in the preamble and objectives of the Indian Constitution. Socialism basically enables the state to establish its ownership of industries. The main objective of socialism is to prevent the exploitation of the people and promote the pious object of the welfare state. Socialism is the only way to eradicate and abolish the line of division between the poor and the rich. Socialism promotes the concept of nationalization. Indian socialism is a political agitation founded early in the 20th century as a part of a broader delegation to achieve Indian freedom from British rule. The movement developed quickly and popularly as it espoused the reasons of Indian farmers and labourers against the so-called Zamindars and Princeley classes, and landed gently. Socialism shaped the principal economic and social policies of the Indian Government but mostly followed Dirigisme. After independence until the early 1990s, when India moved towards a more market-based economy. However, it remains a potent influence on Indian politics, with many national and regional political parties espousing democratic socialism.*

**Keywords:** Capitalism, means of production, social order, social justice

### INTRODUCTION

The word socialism equal to socialist was not provided in the original form of the Constitution. It was embodied in the preamble of the 42nd Amendment, which was passed in 1976. It is a similar word to economic justice. Economic justice means an equal distribution of wealth among the citizens of a country. It is also the concept of state control and ownership over all means of production.

Socialism is the first step towards a socioeconomic revolution. The directive principles of Part IV of the Indian Constitution especially Articles 39(b) and (c) are the essence and charters of social and economic liberties for the citizens [1]. The word socialism has not been defined accurately and definitely, but it is invariably used in both kinds of constitutions: one is democratic, the other is communistic. It is generally a system of governance which means that production is wholly or partially controlled by the government. India's socialism is, however, democratic socialism, and democracy promotes the welfare of people, which would prevent excess exploitation [2].

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Socialism is motivated and inspired by the notion of state control over means of production. Basically, the object of state control over means of production is to discourage capitalism.

Since the provisions of Part 4 of the Constitution, Article 48 “the state shall strive to establish social order on the basis of social justice”, induce the state to establish socialism.

The Indian National Congress passed the resolution with a view to establishing a socialistic pattern of society where the principal means of production are under social ownership or control, production is progressively speeded up, and there is an equitable distribution of national wealth [3].

#### **Samtha vs. State of A.P. [4]**

It was held that the word “socialist” in the preamble must be taken and read in the sense and goals of Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 23, 38, 39, and 46, and all other provisions of the Constitution which aim to remove all types of inequality and discrimination. The socialist concept is to provide social justice to deprived sections of the population.

#### **Balbir Kour vs. SAIL [5]**

The social justice enjoins the court to uphold the government’s endeavour to remove economic inequalities to ensure decent standards of living for the poor, to protect the interests of the weaker sections of society, and to assimilate all the sections of society in a secular integrated socialistic Bharat.

#### **Social Justice Achieved by Establishing Socialism**

The object of social justice embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution could be absolutely achieved by establishing socialism [6]. The concepts of social justice require equalities, which result in equalities of wealth, opportunity, caste, creed, race, and religion. The implementation of welfare programs for improving the condition of labour, maternity relief, the abolition of forced labour, and financial assistance to weaker sections is a good program for social justice [7].

The actual meaning and essence of socialism are to discourage the control of private owners over industries and means of production. The basic concept is to promote government ownership of the economy and the state may afford to abolish the division of wealthy and poor. It is also the objective of socialism to promote the maximum activities of the economy to be implemented by the state.

#### **Judicial Attitude towards Socialism**

The Hon’ble Supreme Court of India expressed its views many times in its verdict about socialism, and according to it, “democratic socialism aims to remove and eliminate poverty, exploitation, ignorance, disease, and unequal opportunity [8].

#### **Excel wear Vs. Union of India [9]**

The Supreme Court observed that “although the Constitution of India envisages private ownership of property and business, the insertion of the word “socialist” would enable the courts to lean more and more in favor of nationalization and state ownership of industry.

The private ownership of industries is recognized and governs an overwhelming proportion of the economic structure. The principles and essence of socialism and social justice cannot be pushed to such an extent as to ignore completely, or to a very large extent, the interests of another section of the public, namely the private owner.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The main objective and essence of socialism is to promote the people’s welfare and security. Socialism means abolishing capitalism and the control of private owners in the economy and industries. Social justice and socialism are correlated with each other. It does not mean to abolish absolutely the interests of private owners. The work of socialism is to protect and provide a decent level of life to the working people, especially to provide security, economic equality, and an equitable distribution of income.

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