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NEHRU'S IDEAS ON SOCIALISM IN DEMOCRACY CONTEXT

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Abstract

This paper presents the Jawahar Lal Nehru's concept of democratic socialism. He believes that country can developed when its people are educated and have all fundamental rights. He gives emphasis on secularism and liberalism. He also supports equality of thoughts and rights of the people. Further he says that in democratic country like India, participation plays main role for the growth of the nation. In this paper Nehru's thoughts has been defined with context to democracy socialism.

Keywords

Democratic, Socialism, Believes, Secularism, Liberalism, People's Rights

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Introduction

Social democracy is the idea of mixed economy where private capitalist is retained and provisions of social welfare are placed to make activity of capitalist's tolerable to society at large. Democratic socialism is also considered to promote of an alternative economic system, in which the means of production are controlled democratically by the workers. In spite of the differences, an alternative economic system production is controlled democratically by the workers.

In basic terms, Democratic Socialism as an ideology is an augmentation of the liberal proliferation democracy to suit the requirements of the considerable number of nations of the world. It is ideology believes that the economy and the general public should work equitably to address the issues of the whole community.

The ideology also explains that democracy and socialism one side of the coin and there cannot be a true democracy without a true socialism, and there cannot be a true socialism without a true democracy. They come together in social equality, justice, fair share for all and an irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power to workers and their families.

Democratic socialism is helpful for social and economic justice and it does not support the exploitation of workers—the actual producers of wealth. Democratic socialists work within the organized political parties and preservation of the pluralistic character of the society. At this stage the emergence of g social and economic factors transformed the character and role of the state in the changed post-industrial context.

One of the main leader and activist of Democratic Socialism was the former Indian Prime Minister Nehru. He stated that Democratic Socialism could mitigate the evils of all the third world countries.

Jawaharlal Nehru was one of India's most prominent leaders of the freedom struggle and seemingly was handpicked by Gandhiji to lead the country after independence. Considering that he became Prime Minister of independent India and was one of the four most influential people if not the most critical in the Constituent Assembly to draft free India's constitution his perspectives

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are of extraordinary significance. Nehru was educated in England where he spent the dominant part of his times of youth. He was normally impacted by the liberal law based custom of Europe and had no questions amid the flexibility battle alongside other western instructed pioneers of the national development that majority rules system was the path forward for India.

When Nehru became Prime Minister of India at that time he had choice to choose two model of democracy either liberal capitalist democracy of Western Europe or people's democracy of USSR or the Soviet Union. Liberal capitalist democracy focuses on individual liberty, freedom of expression and limitations on the powers of the government, fundamental rights, constitutional government, representative democracy and rule by the majority vote etc. People's democracy was the most successful role model was the powerful. This model stressed on creating a classless society and joint community or societal ownership of the means of production.

Nehru was too profoundly influenced by the European liberal entrepreneur model of majority rule government to not for the most part tail it. As he conceded: "My underlying foundations are still somewhat in the nineteenth century and I have been tremendously impacted by the humanist liberal convention to receive in return totally". His interest with socialism and Marxism was accordingly exceptionally restricted in opposition to mainstream thinking and he was prepared to obtain from those conventions just painstakingly and inside breaking points for he was extremely careful about constraining economic rights. For him majority rules system was on a very basic level about equity of chance and a mentality of balance and he essentially wanted to expand that correspondence standard in the monetary domain also to the degree that there ought to be as meager restriction as could be expected under the circumstances.

He believed that in a democracy every individual has an importance and he should be given full opportunity to develop'. He was clear it is only in a democracy that this is possible. Another important aspect of Nehru's thoughts on democracy was that he believed 'democracy means equality and democracy can flourish in an equal society'. Hence he put forward the idea that with India's vast inequalities whether based on caste or class could not allow a democracy to develop for democracy meant political freedom and political and social and economic freedom could not be separated. He was convinced there needs to be a certain equality of opportunity for democracy to be meaningful and that is not possible without social justice.

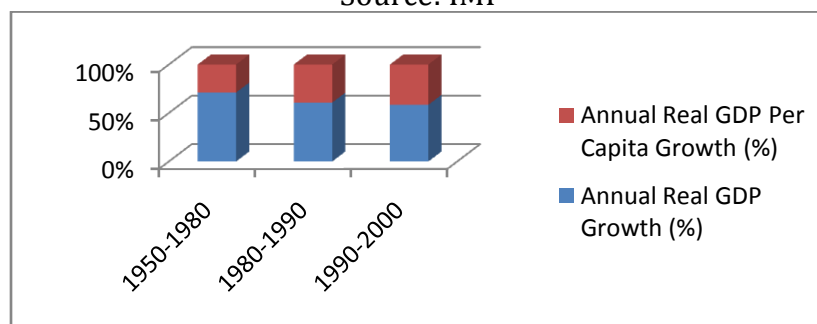
It is for the most part acknowledged by researchers that Nehru endeavoured to touch base at an idea of majority rule government for India considering Indian conditions and substances. While his definitive inclination was for the western liberal esteems and frameworks he understood that to handle India's outrageous imbalances there is a requirement for an arranged state controlled communist styled economy that would fundamentally involve a few checks on freedom.

Independent thought and freedom play important role in the development process. A Table of economic growth is given in context of democratic socialism at the time of Nehru.

Table:-

Period	Annual Real GDP Growth(%)	Annual Real GDP Per Capita Growth (%)
1950-1980	3.7%	1.5%
1980-1990	5.9%	3.8%
1990-2000	6.2%	4.4%

Source: IMF



Above table reveals the economic development where we can see the growth which took place when we talk about democratic socialism at the time of Nehru.

Nehru was socialist and at the same times a democrat. His pragmatic ideas on democratic socialism are as follows:

Concept of Freedom:

Nehru very regarded freedom. By his idea of freedom he implied the right to speak freely and articulation, affiliation and a few different parts of creativity. Having observed the traps of democracy he saw that popular government will work easily in the free, equivalent and boorish society which gives meet chance of all. He had given incorporated origination of political, social and financial flexibility which will just work in a socialistic pattern of society.

Features of the Socialistic Pattern of Society:

For the promotion of opportunity, a socialist of pattern of society is irreplaceable. It ought to include the highlights removal of poverty; reduction of inequalities of income and wealth; provision of equal opportunities to all; check on concentration of economic power, curbing monopolistic tendencies; democratic values, mixed economy etc.

In his words: "I gazed at the millions of friendly eyes that looked at me and I tried to understand what lay behind them. The more I saw of India the more I felt how little I know of her infinite charm and variety." Being halted by plights of the teeming millions of Indian people, Nehru adopted a socialistic pattern of society.

Belief in Parliamentary Democracy:

Nehru was a firm believer to the parliamentary democracy system. He had full confidence on the decision party and healthy opposition. He accepted on general grown-up suffrage for the

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achievement of majority rules system. For the accomplishment of parliamentary vote based system, he put accentuation on the administer of dominant part, techniques for dialog, transaction, influence et cetera. The press, judiciary and public opinion will have a check on the legislators and will be the guard in checking corruptions in parliamentary democracy.

Peaceful Solution to Class Conflict:

In a democratic-socialistic set-up, Nehru opined that class conflict should be ended by peaceful solution. He never believed in the Marxian idea of class struggle or communist-policy of 'ruthless suppression'. On a democratic set-up, due caution should be taken to put an end to the class conflicts inside the society.

Social Development through Planning:

Nehru thought to bring all-around development of the society through planning. It will help in eliminating poverty and achieving social justice for the masses. By planning, he wanted to raise national income and to spend them in productive channels for the improvement of the lot of the poor people of India.

The First Five Year Plan (1951-56), the Second Five Year Plan (1956-61) and the Third Five Year Plan (1961 -66) galvanized Nehru's democratic socialism.

Public Sector Vis-A-Vis Private Sector:

Nehru wanted to accomplish extensive results in the field of democratic socialism. Thus, he put accentuation on 'mix Economy'.

For the change of economic condition of India, Nehru wanted a nearby coordinated effort of private area with open part. He also wanted the advancement of HR for accomplishing this end. By following 'Blended Economy', he needed monstrous industrialization in the alcove and corner of India.

Cooperative Movement:

For the democratic socialism, Nehru put accentuation on the agreeable development in India. He dismissed the trusteeship thought of Gandhi and saw that the well off people should claim the industrial facilities and so on and the poor will work there.

The State should come to help for keeping up these manufacturing plants and so forth allowing advance. That will be conceivable through agreeable social orders. Along these lines, he summoned the vision of a cutting edge India which will keep up a primary school, a Panchayat and cooperative society.

By founding fair communism, Nehru chosen middle path amongst free enterprise and socialism. Along these lines, he preached democratic socialism.

In his words, I must frankly confess that I am a socialist and a republican and I am no believer in king's industry, who has greater power over the lives and fortunes of men."

Conclusion:

Democratic socialism of Nehru's socialism was 'a growing, dynamic conception' and felt that it would not restrict development. Instead of rigid, It should be something that would suit the genius and requirements of the Indian people. When he was near to death he said that socialism in the modern world with its dynamism and its tremendous technological progress. According to him

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we must not forget that the essential objective to be aimed at is the quality of the individual and the concept of a Dharma underlying it". Further he said that India's progress since independence was substantial 'considering the background of India and her people and the necessity of changing the social structure of the country. Nehru's views on democratic socialism also reveal overall development for the welfare of the people of the country. There is a need to hold hand together and walk forward to fulfill the every individual needs through democratic socialism.

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