

WHY NOT INDUSTRIALIZATION?

Varghese Joy*

Abstract

Industrialization is the period of social and economic change that transforms a human group from an agrarian society into an industrial one, involving the extensive re-organization of an economy for the purpose of manufacturing. It took place from the mid-18th to early 19th century in certain areas in Europe and North America; starting in Great Britain, followed by Belgium, Germany, and France. Industrialization leads to a great transformation in our economy; which was primarily a labour intensive one and after this revolution in the production sector it transforms into a capital intensive economy. The evils of capital intensive economy greatly question the survival of mankind in the earth. Establishment of industries has contributed to the development of the world but on the other side world economies and mankind suffered a lot from the industrialization. In this paper the researcher analyzes for negative impacts of industrialization in four different perceptions. Mainly this paper focusing on labour exploitation, environmental problems, changes in lifestyle and value erosion.

Keywords: Environmental Problems, Industrialization Labour Exploitation Lifestyle, Value Erosion

* **Assistant Professor, School of Commerce, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (Autonomous), Kalamassery**

1. Introduction

It's been a very sensitive topic to discuss, write or even to speak for or against "Industrialization". In this paper researcher is not trying to stand for or against Industrialization. In simple terms, industrialization means reducing the involvement of human resources in the production process and non-human resources are getting prime importance in the production process. Industrialization leads to a great transformation in our economy; which was primarily a labour intensive one and after this revolution in the production sector it transforms into a capital intensive economy. Industrialization leads to great capital asset investment in the economy. In the post modern era the human resources (labourers) who were treated very brutally in the factories and other production fields have escaped from such brutalities and they have been exploited in other socio-cultural terms.

Now I, need to address who were the actual beneficiaries of industrialization – is it our economy as a whole? Or a few big hands in our economy? Economy as a whole system consists of haves and have not's, who were disproportionately scattered and the haves are ultimately enjoying various pleasures over have not's. When these types of enjoyments are due to the over capitalization in the production sector, which means capital and its owner gets greater importance. In every sector this capital will try to rule those particular sectors. In this perspective we need to address the issue of industrialization. It is highly accepted that, if capital is not been allowed to flow freely into our economy, then the entire production process will greatly affected. But the question to be answered is how this flow can be rightly directed for the ultimate benefit of haves and have not's. It is very contradictory that both the parties can be benefited. But it is possible to share the benefits by both the parties. Past experiences of many economies show this sharing much more valuable and practical. However industrialization acts as a great constraint to this sharing. In industrialization always capital is been highly accepted and used in the economy and other factors like land, labour etc. are being neglected and exploited. Through industrialization we are having many advantages but apart from that it is time to address the demerits. Through this over use of machineries and other technical equipments in the production process our environment and its ecosystem greatly get polluted which will ultimately affect the existence of humans and other species in the earth. Over use of machineries and other equipments will lead to reduced employment opportunities to the labourers, which will

ultimately affect their purchasing power capacity. When the purchasing power capacity of an individual gets reduced then there will not be enough demand for the produced goods. Even though through industrialization we had developed new infrastructural facilities, when the products in the markets having not enough demand will lead all those infrastructural development in the economy as a dead investment.

2. Objectives of the Study

In the above backdrop, the objective of this paper is set as follows:

1. To analyze the various angles of labour exploitation in the post industrial period.
2. To analyze the environmental impact of industrialization.
3. To identify the impact of industrialization on lifestyle and value system of the society.

3. Research Method

The study is descriptive in nature. Secondary data is used for the study. Many research articles, websites, reference books, newspaper reports etc. were used for the study. Researcher also used his personnel observations and perceptions for the study.

4. Discussions

Impacts of Industrialization

Even though industrialization has brought out many positive impacts in the society. Here the researcher tries to analyze the negative impacts of industrialization in our society. Over the years many scholars addressed these issues with various perceptions with various objectives, here researcher mainly focusing on four various angles:

4.1 Labour Exploitation

Labour being the most important factor along with land, capital and organization have a negative experience with regard to industrialization. Over the years of industrialization labour in the work field is being exploited in various ways. Many manufacturing industries like steam, oil, coal, textile, steel etc. provide very bad working conditions to the labourers. They were not provided proper safety equipments and machineries. Many industries never complied any safety requirements in their work fields. They were not allowed any proper wages and they were

considered merely as equipments. Emotions and feelings of labourers were neglected by the capital. Young boys and girls were asked to employ in the companies with low payment. Labourers lost their socio-cultural life and they were only considered as the means of production. The working class really struggled during the post industrial period. Since many types of machinery and other equipments take their own role in the industry many labourers lost their employment, thus competency of the labour became an important factor in the employment. This creates another source of exploitation labour. The interests of labourers were merely neglected and the principle of industry was “Maximizing Profit”. Many unhealthy practices among the labourers fuel these exploitations drastically.

4.2 Environmental Problems

Industries always being part of this environment greatly depend on this ecosystem. Industry depend this ecosystem for raw materials and other operations. When we analyze the negative impact of industrialization with regard to environment, the important issue we need to address is the environmental pollution. Contamination of every corner of our environment is the end result of industrialization. Air, Water, Soil got polluted through various industrial emissions. Air got polluted through various factory emissions and the over usage of vehicles for transportation. Steam, Coal, Steel etc. were the industries mainly contributed to air pollution. Many other manufacturing industries contributed to air pollution. Many of the water sources also got polluted due to the emission of industrial waste to these sources. These severely affected the marine life also. In the similar way soil also got polluted, even the farming culture also changed after industrialization, many chemicals and fertilizers were used for agricultural production. In the post industrial period agricultural sector focused on the production of cash crops, which created serious climatic issues. Many studies found that number of species extinct from the earth due to over industrialization.

4.3 Change in Lifestyle

It is highly accepted fact that industrialization has changed our lifestyle. Before industrialization we were highly depend on human efforts and in our nature. Industrialization leads to invention of many products and services. These inventions are ultimately aimed at the benefit for mankind, but unfortunately many of them lead to serious health problems. Many lifestyle diseases are

considered as the end result of industrialization. Cancer, diabetes, heart attack and many more are the outcome of industrialization. After industrialization our food consumption habit, our health care thoughts etc. changed a lot. Along with the environmental changes these changes in the lifestyle lead life in earth more complicated.

4.4 Value Erosion

Culture and Value system of the society got depleted in the post industrial period. The relationship between humans got mechanized and there arises many unhealthy practices among the humans in the industry. This in turn affected the societal life of individuals also. In one way industrialization aims at ease of living, this way of living theft our many cultural values and beliefs. It reduced the humanitarian consideration both in industry and society. It always follows the principle of economic gains and selfishness.

5. Conclusion

It is true that the establishment of industries all over the world has contributed greatly to the development of the world, but on the contrast, industrialization has caused a lot of harm to the universe in totality. Frankly, industrialization has brought so many positive impacts into our society. On the other hand, the development of industries has caused a lot of harms and pains. In this study, the researcher analyzed the negative impacts of industrialization with four different perceptions. The exploitation faced by the labourers in the production field, the environmental imbalances occurred due to over dependence on industrialization and the negative influence of industrialization on individual life of humans.

References

1. Kothari C. R. (2001). *Research Methodology*. New Delhi. New age international (P) Limited, Publishers.
2. Kevin M. Murphy, Andrei Shleifer, Robert W. Vishny (1989). *Industrialization and the Big Push*. *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 97(October), No. 5.
3. Rudolf Heberle (1949). *Social Consequences of the Industrialization of Southern Cities*. *Social Forces*, Oxford University Press. Vol. 27, No. 1 (Oct., 1948 - May, 1949), pp. 29-37.

4. David L. Rogers, Willis Goudy, Robert O. Richards (1976). Impacts of Industrialization on Employment and Occupational Structure. *Journal of Community Development Society*. Vol. 7, No. 1.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrialisation>
6. <http://hubpages.com/education/Effects-of-Industrialization>
7. <http://www.enotes.com/homework-help/name-three-positive-negative-impacts-american-395365>