ABSTRACT

The study of Phule’s economic ideas was a big challenge in front me, because, no one had considered him as economist, and no one had studied his ideas in economics view. However, there was need to study his ideas from the perspective of economic, because, his movement of his whole life had dependent on his ideas, which, were dependent on the economic condition of the Shudratishudras. But no one had pay attention to his ideas. And did not try by anyone to develop the ideas.

Another one hurdle was that, he did not elaborate his ideas in scientific way, so, there was a big challenge to find his economic ideas through his literature and elaborate the ideas in scientific view. In my study, there was third problem for my research was regarding the reference books. Therefore, I have used interpretivist method to study his ideas. He was an economist; in his economic development, he has considered some competent, which are related for social welfare, these are ethics, morality, equality and universlazation of education. Therefore, as a student, I thought, there is need to study of his ideas and to examine his economic ‘ideas’ relevancy in the twenty-first century.

Nineteenth century was a period of tremendous change and activity. The British impact was felt in almost all spheres of life such as education, administration, economy, politics and social structure. Indian response and reaction to it was varied, many facet, and even conflicting and contradictory. In Maharashtra Jotirao Phule represented the response of the Shudras, Atishudras and the peasants – the most exploited classes in the system. The present study is an attempt to assess the economic ideas of Phule. India adopted various models of western thinkers’ to bring about development in Indian economy. But the problems of Indian economy could not be solved yet. Because the problem of Indian Economy is not related to the economic factors, but related to religious factors. In India, religion was and is a big hurdle in the economic development. Hindu religion stimulates to disparity, privileges of the Brahmins, inequality, and
deprives the right of wealth possession of the Shudras and Atishudras. The peasants are exploited on various grounds. Therefore, the problems of Indian economy are not to be solved. Phule had studied these entire problems through the lenses of religious factors. Therefore, there is need to study of the Phule’s ideas to solve the problems of Indian economy.

The present study attempts to assess to what extent Phule succeeded in identifying the exploited segments and the complex structure of multiple forces that exploited them, and to what extent his ideas could be helpful in resolving the problems. The present work attempts to elaborate the economic ideas regarding present problems.

Attempt has been done in the First Chapter to study the consequence of Hindu philosophy and its effects on Indian economy. Concerning Indian economy various problems have been sought out and its importance has been discussed through the view of Phule’s ideas. The Second Chapter is related to review of literature. And various views of researchers have been studied and summarized. In the Third Chapter economic condition, its effects and the British policy about the Bombay Presidency have been studied. More space is devoted to land, population, spoken language, land ownership, village administration, revenue system, industrialization and education in his topic. The Fourth Chapter examines various economic ideas of Jotirao Phule, which are related to social structure, Brahmanism, the incarnation theory and exploitation on the various stages of human life. The Fifth Chapter is related to education and agriculture. Importance of education has been studied in this topic. The peasants’ worse condition, impact of the forest law and equality has been taken into account in this topic. Alternative to Brahmanism is discussed.

The Sixth Chapter is throwing the light on the various concepts of Phuleian ideas regarding Indian economy. The Drain theory, which is very different from other economist, is discussed. The theory of social change reflects effects of invaders on the social change of Indian social structure. Phule developed salaried labour model and it elaborated in this topic. Various economic concepts are studied in this topic. The study throws the light on Phule’s ideas very differently.