

The X-ray report of “Economic growth”

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Abstract

With regret to say that politicians and thinkers of economic subject use the word “economic growth” in their talks, writings and discussions as if it is the way to achieve peaceful and happy life. When I read the phrase (“economic growth”) in views/debates and articles, I personally feel on its use as if we fool the innocent and inexperienced young generation and mislead them. To whom we say “economic growth” is a helpless inevitable and selfishly selected remedial action/s under situational compulsion by men to postpone the present challenges, to escape from perilous liabilities, to avoid facing hard path and just to secure, continue and enjoy with present comfort at any cost. The actions for “economic growth” suppress the present social issues of challenges and store them to come out in future at any appropriate time and opportunity, rather in more complex and ugly form. I think; we should clearly appraise the emerging youth of our society that every action of “economic growth” not only brings harm to the ecological balance, but the incessant population growth and lust of few people to enjoy wealthy life contaminates the process of natural social evolution. Its consequences reflect in deformed social constitution decorating “economic growth” with illusive mask of “a gate way to heavenly life”.

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Introduction

I do not know to what extent I am correct, but my conscience says that economics is a subject that makes us aware of details of anatomy and physiology of men’s actions and activities in human society. Rather it is better to say, “Economics is more towards an analytical study of carried out activities of mankind.” then to say that “Economics is a subject concerning to wealth, money and capital.”

The social science, economics and history of mankind are linked so closely that there is no point to study any one of them individually excluding other two. However, the simultaneous study of the three impresses that “To whom we say economic growth” is nothing but a helplessness of man to avoid some social issues that are emerged from the growing strength of population of mankind in the society and to eliminate temporarily a looming threat on existence of some people. All the ideas of “economic growth” enjoy support of all the people of the society; however, part of the people supported it because they found realistic hope to maintain their survival. The other part of the people supported the “economic growth” because there were all the possibilities to satisfy their unending wants and lusts.

The selfish intentions to protect the above referred interests of both the parts of the people either did not allow them to think on the ugly side of the consequences of the “economic growth” or many of them who were aware of the fact remain silent to protect their own interest. Right from the commencement of human society, every measure (action) for “economic growth” carried some harm to ecological balance. However, it was too mild harm compare to the enormously huge wildlife system on our beautiful planet Earth at that time. Unfortunately, increase in knowledge of science and technology in the form of discoveries and inventions (DIs) boosted the ability of man to such an extent that remedial actions for “economic growth” did not remain trifle one as it happened in past. The actions on the name of “economic growth” during last 150 years have proved that they (actions on the name of “economic growth”) have all the capabilities to inflict such an irreparable harm to the ecological balance that might bring a tragic disaster to all living world on this planet Earth. Here, I have tried to appraise the emerging young generation to be aware of the people using the phrase “economic growth” in a style as if it is going to bring all the remedies of social issues particularly by ruling politicians and thinkers of economics knowingly or unknowingly.

Present Status

There are many thinkers and authors who have written on “economic growth”. However, I have tried to put up the same subject matter in different way in front of young generation of this field.

Views on “The economic growth”

It is taught to us that we should achieve better economic growth and that brings better living condition in the society. However, if we analytically scrutinize the fundamentals behind economic growth, we might realize that it is our helplessness to maintain the growth, otherwise enhanced population growth cannot be compensated with the required essentials of survival and it will return with social turmoil and peril. It is not fair to present “economic growth” as if it is a progressive achievement and one more feather to the hat of man. “Economic growth” should not be treated as a gain and progress of mankind. It should not be garlanded as a messiah to mankind. The progressive and successive “economic growth” warranted for a change in socio economic formation. Let us try to understand the same through a simple example.

A group of men & women resides in a jungle. They use crude tools made from stone, wear fur or hide on loin and shoulder, uses sticks and sharpened stones to hunt prey for food, collects other jungle product for making their living, they use cave or shelter hut made from available leaves and wooden branches etc. They produce fire with the help of friction stone; they roast meat or roots before eating.

If we analyse the substances used by them to satisfy their various needs, we shall realise that collecting stone and wooden sticks from surrounding bush and sharpening of the stone to required shape, profile and size was done by them only. This was facilitating them to ensure more fruitful results while hunting and managing for other things to make living. Necessary device for producing fire was also made by them only with material from local area only. Meat roasting on fire was done by them only and they themselves were the consumer of the same. The tools and devices used to manage essentials of survival and regulation of life are few and might be counted on fingers.

Let us verify one more society prevailing with different socioeconomic formation. The society has systematic agriculture, animal husbandry & cattle breeding, jungle product collection in bulk quantity and fishing with net and crude rafter or boat and temporary storage facility etc are the prime supplements to their ability to manage source of survival. The inhabitants of this society live in a society that is stationed at one place. If we make a list of substances used in making living in the society as done above, it cannot be counted on fingers, but the list contains many more substances and devices. Let us pick up few of them as sample:

- Clay pots, leather bags, cut log pieces used in defensive fencing around habitations and cattle resting yard;
- Digging of well, facilities and devices at well to bring water out;
- Wooden carts, agricultural hand tools of primitive methods;
- Flambeau and erected fire corner at shelter place and necessary heat resistance clay material for that;
- Shoe/boot, clothes, other things from leather and other natural substances, rope from cotton or wool, coir or jute strings, mat pieces, baskets from bamboo strips, items from wool and other animal products etc.;
- Shelter places for self and for the cattle, hog and chicken etc.;

There are many more, but we have taken few only. Without elongating explanation, one will agree that many out of all above substances, commodities and facilities are produced or managed by some people. The same are used also by some other people living in the same habitation by the way of exchange process. Some of the items are manufactured stage wise by different people and finally reaches to the end users. This is a vital difference in the constitution of the above society and that of the previous society (former and later societies / socio economic formations). The society of our first (former) example did not have a practice of exchanging, but the example of our later society has an established and prevailed practice of exchange process under compulsion in the society, otherwise the prevailed socio-economic formation cannot perform.

Here is one more vital and critical feature that differentiates human society from natural wildlife society. We never see any established practice in wildlife system where one animal manufactures or produces something for other animals of his own specie or other species to make his own self living. At the same time, we do not find other animals becoming the regular consumer of such products for their activities/living business. Further to this, the practice of consumption of manufactured substances (commodities) by others becomes a prime net

work of the later society that we discussed above with a great process – the exchange process. The dependency on this net work becomes vital to the extent that the making living of the consumers as well as producer comes under threat in the event if manufacturing system net work gets paralyzed with any reason/s.

Though this seems to be very simple, it is very critical development in human society i. e. “to produce something that may or may not be consumed by the manufacturer but by others. Also, the performing as well as functioning of the manufacturing system returns with an opportunity of making some one’s survival”. Looking jointly on manufacturer and consumer, the new socio-economic formation has evolved with a threat of survival for manufacturer and consumer if the flow of production and consumption gets interrupted beyond a tolerable limit. I believe, man was getting trapped into evolutionary blackmailing where man could find exclusive opportunities to mould the social system in one direction only, the helplessness to which now we recognize as “economic growth”. One of the prime motivating forces behind the temptation of “economic growth” is incessant increase in population growth.

The “economic growth” gave hopeful assurance to maintain and settle growth in the population strength. Adoption of new interrelations among various institutions and modified network of social systems were the inevitable precondition of the above remedial actions on the name of “economic growth”. The reverse direction always raised a threat of population destruction and man never liked to go for it. Even today also, if we go to reverse direction, a threat on survival of a substantial part of population will surely emerge. The social development confined within the above channel, ultimately, became an invisible helplessness for man to ensure existence of the surviving population.

Nowadays we hear the word “economic growth” frequently. Generally, this phrase is used by economist and more by politicians. I personally believe that “economic growth” has two flanks. One side is nothing but a helpless adoption of amended relations in social system net work and in functioning of social institutions. Second flank is invading of natural resources to exploit them more rigorously to manage essentials of survival and to fulfil wants and lusts of few people with the use of fresh technologies. The amendments were warranted due to the advancement in means and methods of production system of the society based on advanced science and technology, discoveries and inventions (DIs). If it is not done, the problems born due to the mismatching between scientific and technological development and old social system net work as well as conservative functioning of institutions in the prevailing social system would disrupt the total social system threatening existence of a mass of population.

Reader will agree that above set up gives dependency of producer’s survival on availability of necessary raw material for the substances he produces. Also, consumer’s use of his product is inevitable for the continuity of production. At the same time, consumer of the subject product depends on the producer for making his living, if he makes his living on critical use of the subject product directly, otherwise depends on the product indirectly.

This is something like, a ship sailing in an ocean and each independent group of travellers in the ship occupies a separate compartment. These groups and their activities are independent just for the sake of saying; however, all the groups in their compartment are not free to act as per their will and wish. If any group makes a hole in his compartment (symbolically), total ship will get down to the ocean bottom. That is why it becomes mandatory for the occupants of all the compartments to keep concern with the occupants of other compartments and with their activities also. Likewise, present society is constituted with innumerable compartments of various concerns and performing and functioning of each compartment is mandatory for the survival of the population that works in it. At the same time, its functioning is mandatory for those who are dependent on the outcome of its performance. If they fail in the same, system might collapse.

At least we all should be basically aware of above helplessness before blindly running behind economic growth as if it is a heavenly achievement.

Closing words

We understand that evolutionary remedial actions for managing essentials of survival by man were founded on the platform of his knowledge (discoveries and inventions-DIs). However, the incessant increase in population growth compelled him to go for remedy to manage essentials of survival. The issue of accommodating surplus population became the prime and core motivating parameter for the foundation of social constitution shaping during the social evolution. Still the capacity/magnitude to harm the naturally evolved system under ecological balance had not climbed the level that might generate a suicidal threat on mankind as well as to other living world of the Earth. Sometimes a phrase emerged, and man was introduced

with it as if it is a messiah named “technological development”. Unfortunately, man did not know the messiah was pregnant with a dragon. This dragon slowly emerged and rapidly acted to disrupt the ecological balance and environment cycle. The most unfortunate part of this story is “Neither economists nor responsible rulers of the society ever told/tell that “economic growth” is nothing but a selfish process where present problems of the society are off loaded, dumped in a way that present becomes comfortable and hell with future generation to let them decide what to do with those problems.

If we are educated and literate and responsible guardians/citizens of this planet Earth, it is a shame for us. At least we should not smock screen the fact to keep emerging generation in dark. We must apprise them that “economic growth” is a dose of a toxic drug we use under our helpless condition and make attempt for selfish escape from the looming peril on the society.

Conclusion

If we are able to explore happenings in the space and on the stars long away from us, no one will believe us in future that we are unable to find out a safe constitution of a society where excess use of science and technology might be eliminated progressively to reduce the harm to ecological balance. Let us be frank enough to openly talk about this fact with our young generation through our education system instead of cheating/misleading them that “economic growth” is a positive word.

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