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## Social and Economic Justice : Concept and interrelation

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### Introduction

In Indian Constitution, the Preamble gives vital importance to Justice for all. And justice is elaborated as social and economic justice. Social justice implies equal treatment of all the citizens of India. Provisions for human conditions of work, prohibition of discrimination in public places, removal of social barriers like untouchability etc. are all directed towards social justice.

The Constitution of India also secures a new economic order imbued with justice. It lays a special emphasis on the right to work, right to get adequate wages, prevention of concentration of wealth etc. It also implies freedom in the sphere of production and distribution subject to the general welfare.

### Concept of Social Justice

In the ancient Indian approach, justice was concerned with the performance of duties, not with the notion of rights. In ancient Indian tradition, there were two approaches 'Dandaniti' and 'Dharma', which were concerned with justice. 'Dandaniti' was very close to the modern notions of justice (law and punishment). It suggested the legal aspect of justice. Dharma was another name for the code of duties and justice was nothing but virtuous conduct with dharma. Thus, like Platonic justice, the Hindu tradition linked justice with performance of duties prescribed by dharma.

The modern approaches to justice are broadly Liberal and Marxist approaches. The Liberal argument is that the individual's rights and liberty are necessary for a just society, while the Marxist approach relies upon equality for a just society. The latter believe that unless and until the existing inequalities in society are removed, society will not be just. The basic premises of justice are liberty, equality and rights.

The concept of social justice emerged out of a process of evolution of social norms, order, law and morality. It laid emphasis upon just action and created space for intervention in the society by enforcing rules and regulations based on the principles of social equality. The term 'social justice' consists of two words: one is social and the second is justice. The term 'social' is concerned with all human beings who live in society, while the term 'justice' is related to liberty, equality and rights. Thus, social justice is concerned with ensuring liberty, providing equality and maintaining individual rights for every human being in society. In other words, securing the highest possible development of the capabilities of all members of the society may be called social justice.

Being a multi-dimensional concept, social justice has been viewed by scholars of law, philosophy and political science differently. The term is not quite comprehensive. Social justice is a bundle of rights; it is the balancing wheel between the haves and have-nots. It has a great social value in providing for a stable society and securing the unity of the country. In general, social justice may be defined as 'the rights of the weak, aged, destitute, poor, women, children and other under-privileged persons'.

According to Professor R.M.W. Dias, 'Justice is not something which can be captured in a formula once and for all; it is a process, complex and shifting balance between many factors'. The tasks of justice are 'the just allocation of advantages and disadvantages, preventing the abuse of power, preventing the abuse of liberty, the just decision of disputes and adapting to change'. Justice may be natural justice or distributive justice. Social justice is basically a term that provides sustenance to the rule of law. It has a wider connotation in the sense that it includes economic justice also. It aims at removing all kinds of inequalities and affording equal opportunities to all citizens in social as well as economic affairs. Thus, the aim of social justice is to remove all kinds of inequalities based upon caste, race, sex, power, position and wealth and to bring about a balance between social rights and social controls.

### Economic Justice

Economic justice is the component of social justice because it is a much bigger concept than economic justice, many of the time through social justice economic justice is done to peoples like equality of opportunity in public employment ensures not only economic justice but also social justice, somehow both of them interrelated with each other. We can also say that the main objective of the economic justice is to create foundation upon which all people have equal opportunity to live a dignified and productive life without any discrimination. [1]