



Universal Basic Income

and a New Social Order we desperately
need today!

What is Basic Income?

a basic income is an income unconditionally paid monthly to all citizens on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement

Elements of Basic Income?

- Universal
- Unconditional
- Individual
- Periodic (usually monthly)
- Citizen's right (never to be taken away)

Why Universal Basic Income Now?

Stephen Hawking on Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Society



“Everyone can enjoy a life of luxurious leisure if the machine-produced wealth is shared, or most people can end up miserably poor if the machine-owners successfully lobby against wealth redistribution. So far, the trend seems to be toward the second option, with technology driving ever-increasing inequality.”

Source: 2015 In AMA Reddit; and also article in The Guardian, 1 December 2016

Jeffrey Sachs on today's Moral Crisis



Jeffrey Sachs
Economist, Columbia University

“The lesson from America is that economic growth is no guarantee of wellbeing or political stability. American society has become increasingly harsh, where the richest Americans buy their way to political power and the poor are abandoned to their fate.”

In their private lives, Americans have become addicted to consumerism, which drains their time, savings, attention and inclination to engage in acts of collective compassion.

The world should beware. Unless we break the ugly trends of big money in politics and rampant consumerism, we risk winning economic productivity at the price of our humanity.”

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2010/oct/04/americas-deepening-moral-crisis>

Why Universal Basic Income Now?

State of the World -1

Technological and Economy

- 4th Industrial Revolution underway: dramatically different in terms of velocity, scope and systems impact - major impact on governance, production and management
- Jobless growth possible - Traditional notions of paid work and social security and welfare are collapsing rapidly;
- Extreme inequalities and growing number of Precariat – informal contracts and insecure jobs

Why Universal Basic Income Now?

State of the World - 2

Environmental degradation

1. Economy and Culture based on excessive exploitation of natural resources
2. Environmental degradation reaching its limits making life unsustainable
3. Crisis both at the macro societal level as well as at the personal level in terms of accepted and unquestioned lifestyles
4. Beyond experimental communities, austerity needs to be mainstreamed.

Why Universal Basic Income Now?

State of the World -3

Moral Crisis

1. Atomized Utopias and Atomized existence
2. Economy and its growth based on Consumerist Culture - economic imperative
3. Human fulfillment based on consumerist culture - Default mode
4. Relative Morality - Moral Absolutes seen as Intolerance

What are Our Opportunities Today?

- Technology makes it possible to generate wealth that can be shared by all who contribute to it.
- Technology can produce mass goods needed to fulfill our basic needs at a very low cost.
- Technology brings the global communities together – we are able to build new communities
- Technology brings education accessible to more people today than ever
- It is possible to design a better world more today than 20 years ago. What kind of new social order should we envision? But are we willing to?

Why is Basic Income a great Idea?

- Basic Income can create foundation by providing minimum floor of economic security
- Mark of civilization that nobody starves. It ensures that Nobody starts from zero
- Great leveler and an antidote to the structural inequalities based on gender, race, ability, caste, others.
- UBI has different impact on different classes in the society
- Great opportunity to take our human civilization to the next level, not just in the technological sense but also in terms of solidarity, compassion, equity.
- We enjoy Nature's bounty, but have we designed our societies as extension of Nature's principles?

7 top results from the India Pilot Study

1. Myths falsified that people will drink it away and stop working;
2. Basic income allowed them to make better employment choices - from exploitative forms to benign ones;
3. People worked more and planned better; new assets acquired; Unproductive assets become productive
4. Ate better and more diversified food;
5. Borrowed less; shifted from distress borrowing to soft loans.
6. Psychological effects on the mind; income security, what it does to the mind
7. people with chronic illness took medicines more regularly

The emancipatory value of BI is several times more than its monetary value

Community Level Changes

A group of youth started a Fish Cooperative

Collective decision taken by the entire village to contribute 100 rupees from each family for marriage ceremonies in the village

Collective decision not to use pond water for irrigation in order to save it for the cattle

Consensus seeking within the family because of individual entitlement



Fishermen from the Co-operative

Gives Economic citizenship to the unpaid, underpaid and invisible labour



Gives dignity to Elderly



Treats Challenged as Human



Basic Income is the foundation of a
New Social Order





Thank you for your Attention