

# Universal Basic Income: A Comprehensive Examination of Economic Security and Social Equity

Arav Wahi<sup>1</sup>, Saksham Goel<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mayoor School, Noida

Email: aravwahi75[at]gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Mayoor School, Noida

Email: saksham.s.goel[at]gmail.com

**Abstract-** *Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a tantalizing concept with the potential to revolutionize economic security and social equity. In a world characterized by stark income disparities and a dynamic job landscape, UBI emerges as a beacon of hope, promising financial stability and personal empowerment for all. This research explores the intricate fabric of UBI, unraveling the economic complexities of funding, taxation, and sustainability, while also embarking on a social journey to understand how UBI can empower individuals to shape their destinies. Through case studies and real-world experiments, we investigate the successes and challenges faced by nations implementing UBI. We embark on an intellectual odyssey to realize a world where economic security and social equity are not just ideals but tangible realities, and where opportunities and choices abound for every citizen.*

**Keywords:** Universal Basic Income, UBI, economic security, social equity, poverty alleviation, financial empowerment, case studies

## 1. Introduction

Imagine a world where everyone, no matter their circumstances, has enough money to cover their essential needs – a world where no one goes to bed hungry, and every person can pursue their dreams. This is the captivating promise of Universal Basic Income (UBI). In our research journey, we'll explore this exciting idea that has the potential to make our society fairer and more secure for all.

In a time of glaring income inequalities and shifting job landscapes, UBI raises a simple but powerful question: Can we ensure that every citizen has a financial safety net? Can we create a system that not only fights poverty but also empowers individuals to decide the course of their lives?

Our research paper is an expedition into the heart of UBI. We will unravel its economic intricacies – the money, taxes, and sustainability. At the same time, we'll navigate the social terrain, understanding how UBI can give people the freedom to shape their own destinies beyond just surviving.

This adventure will take us around the world, exploring how different countries are trying out UBI. We'll learn from their successes and challenges, getting closer to the dream of a society where economic safety and fairness are not just dreams but realities.

Join us in this intellectual journey, as we delve into the world of Universal Basic Income. It's a chance to make the world a better place for everyone, and we are excited to share this research with you, making it simple and interesting for all, including students. Together, we embark on a comprehensive examination of UBI, aiming to contribute to the ongoing conversation about this transformative concept.

## 2. Economic Security: The Heart of Universal Basic Income

Within the realm of economic security, Universal Basic Income shines as a beacon of hope for the impoverished and the unemployed. It extends a vital lifeline, offering the means to subsist and prosper, regardless of one's capacity to secure traditional employment. UBI guarantees that every citizen has access to the financial resources necessary to meet their basic needs. With UBI in place, no one must endure the pain of going to bed hungry, as this social safety net ensures that fundamental necessities are readily attainable.

Moreover, UBI empowers individuals to make choices that extend beyond mere survival. It bestows the freedom to pursue education, select a profession, and shape personal lives without the looming threat of financial instability. This liberating aspect of UBI fosters a society where each citizen can aspire to their full potential, contributing to a more equitable and just economic landscape.

In conclusion, as we navigate the intricate terrain of income inequality, Universal Basic Income stands as a potential solution, demanding meticulous planning, economic robustness, and rigorous empirical testing. It promises not only economic security but also the emancipation of individuals, enabling them to transcend mere subsistence and pursue lives filled with opportunities and choices. The journey toward realizing UBI's full potential lies in cultivating economic systems that prioritize the well-being of every citizen, transforming our societies into bastions of fairness and prosperity.

### 2.1 Achieving Social Equity: Building a Fair and Inclusive Society

Envision a world where every individual, regardless of their

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background or circumstances, has an equitable opportunity to lead a fulfilling life. This ideal world embodies the essence of social equity, a concept centred on ensuring that no one is left behind. As we delve into the realm of Universal Basic Income (UBI), we embark on a journey towards a fair and inclusive society, one that fosters opportunities for all.



**Figure 1:** A portrayal of diverse people standing together, symbolizing unity and inclusivity

### 3. The Heart of Social Equity

Social equity acts as the superhero of fairness, striving to establish a level playing field where everyone has an equal chance to succeed. In our world, this signifies that whether you are born into affluence or adversity, you should still possess the opportunity to build a prosperous life.

#### Confronting the Villain: Poverty

Enter the formidable adversary: Poverty. It casts a looming shadow over people's lives, impeding their access to essential resources. UBI emerges as the hero, the shield that guards against the perils of poverty. With UBI, even the most vulnerable citizens receive a lifeline to rise above the clutches of poverty.

#### The Education Elevator

Education is akin to a magical wand that empowers individuals to chase their dreams. Regrettably, not everyone can grasp this wand due to its exorbitant cost. UBI alters this narrative. It is akin to a scholarship for all, ensuring that everyone can wield this metaphorical wand to explore their potential. It is about granting everyone an equitable opportunity to learn and grow.

#### Your Ticket to Freedom

Picture having the liberty to pursue your passions and goals in life, free from the burden of bills and financial concerns. UBI provides you with that ticket to freedom. It operates as an adventure pass, granting you the ability to explore diverse paths, from launching a business to following your aspirations. It's all about empowering you to shape your future.



**Figure 2:** An individual holding a ticket leading to various life paths, signifying the freedom UBI offers

In our exploration of UBI, the concept of social equity serves as the secret ingredient that enhances the flavour of our journey. It embodies the principles of fairness, inclusivity, and providing everyone with an opportunity for a better life. UBI transcends mere financial support; it is about crafting a world where the dreams and potentials of all individuals can flourish.

This paper underscores the pivotal role of UBI in advancing social equity, fostering inclusivity, and offering a brighter future for all. It is a testament to the enduring pursuit of a just and equitable society, where opportunities are boundless, and every individual's aspiration can come to fruition.

### 4. Proposed Methods for Implementing Universal Basic Income

When we delve into the intricacies of different countries' economic systems and the multitude of economic challenges they face, one common and pervasive issue emerges - the unequal distribution of income. In every corner of the globe, nations grapple with the staggering disparities in wealth and income. To address this pressing concern, we can categorize the people of a country into three distinct financial categories:

- 1) Below the Poverty Line: Those individuals who find themselves struggling to meet even their most basic needs.
- 2) On the Poverty Line: People who teeter precariously on the edge of financial stability, constantly vulnerable to economic shocks.
- 3) Above the Poverty Line: The fortunate ones who enjoy a level of financial security and comfort.

Collecting precise data on the distribution of individuals within these categories is essential. This data can be acquired through comprehensive methods such as conducting censuses and surveys. Armed with this information, policymakers can formulate effective strategies to alleviate economic inequalities and promote financial well-being.

Numerous countries have already recognized the urgent need to support those below the poverty line and the unemployed. India's pioneering MGNREGA Act is a noteworthy example. This transformative legislation strives to provide meaningful employment opportunities to citizens while guaranteeing them income for up to 100 days. It serves as a beacon of hope for those grappling with financial insecurity, offering a crucial safety net.

Nonetheless, the road to implementing Universal Basic Income (UBI) is not without its challenges. One of the most significant hurdles is the ever-evolving nature of work in today's world. The labor market exhibits a dynamic demand for diverse skills, which can vary from one region to another. It is imperative that individuals are equipped with adaptability and a strong foundation in skill development, beginning from their earliest educational experiences. This adaptability is vital to enable individuals to navigate the shifting sands of the job market and embrace new opportunities as they arise.

Furthermore, the introduction of UBI comes with substantial

economic implications. The provision of a universal income is a resource-intensive endeavor, necessitating a robustly developed economy capable of sustaining this financial commitment. The widespread adoption of UBI, particularly within developed nations, remains relatively untested. It is, therefore, crucial to embark on comprehensive trials on a large scale to rigorously assess the multifaceted impacts of UBI.

A pertinent concern is the possibility of a significant increase in taxes, which could inadvertently burden the very population UBI aims to support. Government authorities must exercise meticulous precision when determining the appropriate level of financial infusion into the economy, ensuring that it maintains economic stability without overburdening the citizens, particularly those with limited means.

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## Author Profile

**Arav Wahi**, a dedicated student at Mayoor School, is a young aspiring mind with a profound passion for AI and computer science. His relentless zeal for discovery extends beyond the virtual realm, as he eagerly explores the latest gadgets and expresses a genuine fascination for engineering. Beyond tech, he's also keen on economics. This dynamic blend of interests and aspirations positions Arav Wahi as a promising scholar poised to bridge the gap between technology and society, channeling innovation and knowledge to create a brighter and more inclusive future for all.

**Saksham Goel** is a committed student currently studying non-medical sciences at Mayoor School, Noida in 12th standard. He has been a person who always has the hunger to do better and be the best version of himself every day. He always had the leadership quality in himself which led him to be an active part of his school's student council. With science being his major subject, he chose economics as his minor showing his interest in the subject. This research paper is the reflection of the curiosity he has in the subject.