

# Future of Work in Economy of Nurturance

Work is changing and so is economy. But should future work fit into the economy as it is and as it changes or future work must shape the economy? And if future work should shape the economy what should it shape into?

One of the labour movement initiatives among the informal sector workers based in India and spread in South Asia (and beyond) is now consolidating its experience on what kind of economy they want on future and what role work will play in such an economy. It is being called Building Economy of Nurturance (BEN).

What is paid for is work. But paid work is not the only work. Work and money are too narrowly linked. As if it is a trade between work and money. Work is far more fulfilling basic human need and future economy must take

this broad role of work in the economy in account.

Impact of work on the worker, his or her family, and on the society cannot be ignored any more. What is called *Anubandh* (co-relation) of work must and will be more central in future. As Ela R. Bhatt, in her book titled, "*Anubandh: Building Hundred-Mile Communities*" (available at [www.amazon.in](http://www.amazon.in)) said, "Anubandh is both, past of our future and future of our past".

Work is also more and more influenced by its locality. What is called hundred miles principle. in the above book More and more basic needs—food, water, shelter, and finance—must be and can be locally produced and owned and consumed. This is not against global trade or labour or skills but in favour of local, decentral, and emission sensitive future of work.

Economy of nurturance aims at prosperity for all, based on new meaning and contract of work; new co-relation (*Anubandh*) of work; and locality of work. Economy of nurturance does not plunder human or natural capital but in fact restores it and with hard and honest work grows it.

This is an exploratory study proposed for the Global Commission of Future of Work (GCFW).

The study will be based on expanding the existing material on BEN.

The study output will be a 30 page document submitted to GCFW to shape its recommendations.

The study will draw from similar efforts of re-looking at economy such as green economy, blue economy, bio-economy, climate smart economy and knowledge economy.■

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