

UBI (Universal Basic Income) is a social policy that advocates universal benefits and helps to alleviate poverty. It is also related to civil rights and social equity.

The concept of UBI has been concerned by people from all walks of life since it had been put forward last century. UBI is an inclusive redistribution policy that requires state's intervention. Various social experiments have been done in different places to verify its feasibility. But so far, it has not been implemented as a policy.

There are three reasons explaining why we need UBI: 1. Technical unemployment emerges rapidly. Now our society has entered a period of rapid development of artificial intelligence. Robots have done most of the jobs. During the past two decades, the U.S. employment has decreased sharply, but the output value has increased significantly. A study found that 47% of jobs in the United States will be at risk of being replaced by automation in the next 10 to 20 years, which means half of the people will lose their job and get no money to support their lives. If we want to maintain social stability, we must consider the livelihood of these unemployed people.

2. Economic inequality is increasing. As a result of the fast development of economic globalization, wealth is highly concentrated and the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. The result of economic inequality is that the jobs of the poor people are eroded by the development of science and technology, for example, AI. However, the government cannot provide enough social welfare to help with their livelihoods.

3. Populism challenges the mainstream politics. Technological progress squeezes the traditional labor market, and economic inequality distorts social equity, which eventually breeds a global wave of social protest and leads to the revival of populism in Europe and America.

UBI is good in nature but still a utopian assumption. The reasons are as follows: 1. Cost is high. The critics believe that if the goals of the UBI are to be satisfied, they must be constrained by the financial cost, and will have a negative impact on economic growth, inflation, and social security. 2. Social ethic is challenged: UBI will ruin the current concept that "labor is glorious". If you can get income without working, then no one will work. Then this benefit policy will raise "lazy people" for the society, which is destructive to social progress and development.

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