
**“RELEVANCE OF GANDHI’S THOUGHTS IN CURRENT
PERSPECTIVE”**

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ABSTRACT

The Gandhian philosophy is a combination of sacrifice, truth, love and Ahmisa. For Gandhi, Non-violence was central in his mobilization against British ruler in india. The sincere effort to adopt "Swaraj" thought of Gandhi means implementing a system whereby real power directly resides in the hands of people. Gandhi said, " Power resides in the people, they can use it at any time". In today world, sincere follower of mahatma is Anna Hazare who follows the path of Ahmisa and has shaken the Indian government. Now, every youth find himself in the image of Anna Hazare. Another revolutionary effort by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) established by Arwind Kejriwal and some erstwhile activist of India Against Corruption movement with the aim of empowering people by applying the concept of Swaraj enunciated by Gandhi by changing the system of Governance. Gandhi ideology that one can win fight by nonviolence path of Ahmisa just by the sense of feeling of love and door must be open for negotiation and discussion. Mahatma Gandhi showed great importance to the status and role of women in society. He wanted that women came out of their homes and actively participate in struggle movement. No doubt, Gandhi took the idea of Satyagraha from Kasturba, his wife. In fact, Satyagraha take a long time but provides fruitful result and leaves no traces of ill-will. It certainly leads us to peace and cherishes everywhere.

Keywords: Satyagraha; Ahmisa; youth; Swaraj; women.

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INTRODUCTION:

Mahatma Gandhi, Father of Indian Nation, was not only a political and social reformer but a social thinker also. His political and social ideas are scattered throughout his autobiography, his letters, various writing in the newspapers or his interviews. The idea and practice of Satyagraha is the most important contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to political thought. The meaning of Satyagraha is holding on to truth and truth force. Mahatma Gandhi largely succeeded in Ahimsa and Satyagraha because he was brave, humble free from hatred. An important saying of Mahatma Gandhi “Strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from indomitable will” All these are fully within the scope of non-violence. So, they are themselves the best introduction of Ahimsa. According to Gandhiji, the rotary of truth would not to seek to vindicate truth by violent means. The best way to vindicate the truth is to win the heart of opponent by self suffering. The Satyagrahi uses the moral weapon of love and truth. He seeks to conquer hatred by love, untruth by truth violence by suffering. Furthermore Mahatma Gandhi loved everybody without any discrimination .Love is supplementary to Ahimsa. As Mahatma Gandhi did not hate British but he only oppose their attitude. He is a true lover. According to him: Love is the strongest force the world possesses and yet it is the humblest imaginable”

The Gandhian approach needs both courage and freedom from ill-will. Before launching, Satyagraha and during the course of Satyagraha, Gandhiji was ever ready to negotiate and discuss with the British. Today most of the world’s countries are facing various kinds of internal and external crises. Due to unprecedented changes in the social, political, economical and cultural spheres, agitation amongst various groups of people have reached the highest level. That is why, particular groups create problems, we have witnessed such situation in province of Punjab, Assam and still in Kashmir during last two decades of the past century. In such a state of affairs, can the way shown by Mahatma Gandhi still be relevant Now the question arises? Sixty five years after Gandhi’s death, should this man needed in today’ world. Can his Ahimsa and Satyagraha be applied to tackle such problems? The answer will be yes. But it is necessary to become familiar the methods of their application in Today’s changed circumstances. So those in authority dealing with serious issues in the world must have humility to understand and accommodate the opposing point of view. They should have feeling the sense of love and must open the door for discussion and negotiation. If this man or thinking lives, then there will be no Hindu –Muslim violence, no Jihads in Kashmir, no naxalities in Orissa. There are several events

where we need Gandhi. So, life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi always remains relevant. He loved, thought, acted, and inspired by vision of humanity.

It is clear that Gandhi's life, thought, action, teaching are ever relevant for all aspirants of the ethical and spiritual life. There are many history makers who were inspired by Gandhi and showed the power of peacefully opposing oppression, injustice and hatred – Martin Luther King Jr., Vaclav Havel, Rigoberta Menchu, and Nelson Mandela. Examples are evident throughout the world from minor to major, small to large, important to trivial. There are many different kinds of both public and personal violence and Gandhiji message play an important role to all of them. Public violence includes bloodshed in the streets of numerous war-torn countries throughout the world robberies and looting, and murders. Gandhi's message is one of those confronting things that urge people to do goodness no matter how bad the situation is. There are also social workers like Anna Hazare who still serving and fight for people against corruption by following the path of Satyagraha. Satyagraha can be undertaken only for social good and never for personal gain. So, Satyagraha is not for one but for all.

Non-violence as a positive concept of pressure and persuasion:

According to Christian view of non-violence, Christian generally accepts the proposition that “God is love”. This leads to logical corollary that main enemy is hatred itself. One of Twentieth century is most celebrated non violent action by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who also follow the path of non-violence and did not surrender to the colonial power and insist on winning their freedom. Such men reject violence because of deeply held conviction that employment of violence keeps them away from decent society. He knew that violence was not going to solve anything and follow the non-violence approach to civil right movement. According to him, “Non-violence is a weapon unique in history which cuts with wounding and ennobles the man who wields it.”

Another Non-violent action by Rosa parks, Blacks in the twentieth century who were obliged to give up their seats to white passengers, started boycotting the bus system entirely. Rosa parks acted in a non-violent discipline way in the form of terrorism for white extremist. Within a year, bus system has been desegregated. Rosa parks played an important part in raising international awareness of the plight of African American and Civil right struggles

Anna Hazare and ahimsa

Right to information act: Many of us do not know history behind Right to information act. At one instance, this man was completely fed up with bureaucrats of government offices. No real information was given to citizens. It was very difficult to gather the information regarding any corrupt activity or tender procedure activity from the offices. Actually, tenderer, officers and ministers of government stealing the money of people on large scale. So, he decided to force the government of Maharashtra to bring the bill by which anyone can ask the details of government activity in all offices. As usual, Maharashtra government against the bill. Finally, he took the help of peaceful non-violence path of 'Anshan'. No doubt, large number of youth joined protest against the government. Finally, Government brings Right to information act and subsequently implemented all throughout the country.

Life of Anna Hazare was inspired by two great personalities –Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi message was, "if you want to change the nation, you have to change the village. And if you want to change the financial situation of the village, you have to change the state of the village". Anna Hazare effort to change the nation was to bring three main issues- one is Lokayukta bill, second is citizen's charter bill and third is lower bureaucracy. A sincere effort By Gandhian follower Anna Hazare staged a Amran Anshan Andholan over Lokpal bill issue at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. That andholan was totally based on non-violence and peaceful manner. In a few days every youth of India find himself in the image of Anna hazare. A large gathering of people stood in the support of Satyagrahi Anna Hazare. Still, lokpal bill is under the chairs and tables of parliament. His followers feel that this is a success. Anna says that it is half success and he will again continue struggle until goal is achieved. This activist again threatened to launch another fast if immediate action is not taken before winter session to pass anti corruption bill. We can sometimes say that all are safe-Democracy, the Parliament and Anna. But Corruption? Whether it still continue. Only education and awareness among people of India can finish the giant of corruption.

Another effort to bring Right to reject the vote in the election. His move gave fruitful response by recently implementing NOTA (None of the above) option in EVM (electronic voting machine) in forthcoming state as well as central election by the election commission. This forcing political parties to field only those who are known for their integrity and ensuring proper governance of the country. This effort to realize political parties to think that when a large number of people are expressing their disapproval with the candidates being put up by them,

gradually there will be systemic change and political parties will be forced to accept the will of the people and field candidates who are known for their integrity. For a democracy to survive in the country, it is essential that best available men should be chosen as people's representatives for the proper governance of the country.

Silent Protest at Delhi:

Another peaceful and silent protest by thousand of youth in Delhi after a 23 year old Paramedical student was gang raped, beaten and thrown away from a moving bus by around five men. Thousands of people cutting across ages and social strata took to the streets in peaceful marches protest across the country to mourn the death of gang raped victim whose fate triggered an outpouring of pet up grief and anger. Hundreds of protesters seething in rage and anguish demanded capital punishment for rape accused while other sought "justice" and "change". This demonstration all over the country is Gandhian based non-violence manner. To follow the path of Mahatma Gandhi, the students forced the government to bring strong laws to punish sexual offenders. Mahatma Gandhi always had a noble regard for woman. In his saying," To call woman, the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, than indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, the woman is immeasurably man's superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self sacrificing, has she not greater power of endurance, has she not great courage? Without her, man could not be. If Non-violence is law of our being, the future is with woman. We cannot make more effective appeal to heart than woman." This Gandhian approach result in fruitful result in implementation of ant rape bill for the safety of women and children.

Gandhi and youth:

Gandhi is such an icon for youth that showed the spirit of glory and way to freedom to the Indians. Gandhiji was a towering personality who inspired people around the world and taught us important lessons that are still valid today, especially for youth. In a famous saying in a United States newspaper that Mahatma Gandhi was the most influential political leader of all time.

To all, many of his teaching are very relevant to today's youth. He encouraged spinning one's owns clothes, teaching us self-reliance. This is crucial to success. He was open minded and tolerant of all religion and this is message vital to today's generation. He emphasizes the uplift of common man through small scale industries. This is a solution applicable today to employment problems among youth. Mahatma Gandhi understood the dynamics of social changes that could

be executed only through youth power. Youth have by nature greater follow feeling and sympathy, which make them fit instruments of social change i.e. ethical and spiritual values.

There are number of devotee follower of Mahatma Gandhi who had actively participated in the freedom struggle. And Post-independence, he lives only to realize Gandhi's principles of serving humanity. One of them is limelight is Baji Mohammad (age 93) of Nabrangpur district in Odisha is too frail to work But, he still holds Gandhian principle close to the heart. He is still serving Gandhi's code of mankind without any hunger of power and position for that. Another inspiration statement by UN Chief Ban-Ki—Moon was on the recent birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi that people across the world be inspired by the courage of Mahatma Gandhi and his resonant legacy of non—violence to peacefully oppose oppression, injustice and hatred. In his message, for international day of non-violence, which is also the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, Ban said, ' On this day, I call on global citizen everywhere to be inspired by the courage of people like Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji showed the power of peacefully opposing oppression, injustice and hatred.' Another revolutionary effort by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) established by Arvind Kejriwal and some erstwhile activist of India Against Corruption movement with the aim of empowering people by applying the concept of Swaraj enunciated by Gandhi by changing the system of Governance.

CONCLUSION

To solve the future problem, no doubt, India needs revolution with young leadership that is educated, compassionate and is not power hungry. To save nation, all we have to follow Mahatma Gandhi ideas: Truth, non-violence, Simple living, High thinking, Equality, own work to do himself, abolish untouchability. Ahimsa cannot be dismissed so lightly as we think. Ahimsa is the strongest force known. We have to discover the hidden power with patience and faith. Nothing in the world is static but it is kinetic. None can survive without eternal cycle unless it be God himself. Gandhi has given a independent nation to the people and meaning of Satyagraha to the world. Now it is our duty to fulfill the the dreams of great man, what we can do for our youth, women or other backward class. The position of women has changed a lot in modern times. Clearly women have made tremendous strides towards equality in recent decades but still we live in a society where women have physical appearance but not intellectual contribution. Still we can see gap between men and women in countless social arenas such as workplace, household, educational institution and even in nation's government. These are most

essential and requisite path to follow for social reforms revolution in India .Even Albert Einstein, great scientist in the twentieth century once called Gandhi a role model for the generation to come... in a letter writing about him. Furthermore, Romain Ronald, a great man in the twentieth century said, " Mahatma Gandhi is another Christ" No doubt, statement of both these great men are extraordinary as they exhort the world to examine Mahatma Gandhi's personality and works as well as their relevance in these times, especially in the context of development of a culture of peace, it is necessary for us to know what his ideas are, or in other words, what Gandian is. Some activist recognizes that non-violence may well prove to be the best means for achieving the ends sought. It is in fact .that non-violent Satyagraha sometimes take a long time but it causes less damage or no damage to persons and property, moreover it leaves no trace of hatred and ill-will. It is pursuit of truth and we all know Truth always wins. Now the question is? Are we ready to tread the path of Mahatma Gandhi showed us? If we follow Gandhism, it will certainly lead us to peace that we very dearly cherish.

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