



GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Gandhi's principle of non-violence throughout his life got him accolades recognition nationally and internationally. He was a great thinker, philosopher and economist though, he was non by profession, in fact he was a practicing lawyer by profession. He fought against the British and struggled for the independence of India, through basic principle associated with non-cooperation movements. His vision of economy was great and could have resolved many problems related to the social and economical issues the country is going through presently. Gandhi emphasized on the overall progress of each individual. It is essential to enrich whole self i.e.: Body, Mind & Soul. He asserted that the youths must be literate and educated so as to be social and virtuous, which would benefit the society and the nation at large.

Key words: *Gandhi's Philosophy, Gandhi's views.*

INTRODUCTION

Gandhi's basic philosophy of non-violence could be seen from his initial harrowing and humiliation experience of racial discrimination in 1893 in Africa. Throughout his life and career he never deviated from the path of non-violence. In fact, the movements he led were based on the principles of truth and insistence popularly known as satyagraha. He was convinced with the statement of Tolstoy, wherein, he stated The kingdom of God is within you. It was so, because Gandhi knew that the same was mentioned in Bhagwad Geeta. Hence he firmly opined that one must labour for food, shelter and clothing for self and family. Gandhi remarked that if each person laboured for bread discrimination for rank was bound to diminish, in other words the racial gap would narrow down.

Gandhi's concept of India with a sound economy could be possible of work culture having its main objective of education. He intended to keep education as the base for development of

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healthy minds and intellect, physical fitness associated with ethical moral values for a vibrant society crossing all barriers of caste, creed and religion.

Objective:

- To inculcate ability and thoughts of youths through Gandhi's concept of work and values.
- To inspire and further Gandhi's perspective to facilitate harmony, safeguard environment and desist race and gender discrimination.
- To assess and review Gandhian thought on religions.

Review of Literature:

According to Gandhi he was impressed by the ideology of J. Krishnamurti owing to his thought of inculcating natural, emotional and sensitivity of mind in the process of education. Gandhi's views coincided with Swami Vivekanand as both shared similar opinion that, it was essential to develop spiritual and moral quality in each person G. Ramachandran too, was convinced with Gandhi's concept of a curriculum incorporating subject viz: Moral science, Social science and General science.

Gandhi interlinked religion with politics as he was of the opinion that both are inseparable. It was because he opined that the bases of all religions were Truth, Love and Non-violence and hence Politics must adopt the path of ethics drawn from religions.

Methodology:

The intent of this research paper is to cover a few of the vast important spheres of thought of the great philosophy of Gandhi. The study on based on extensive reference of texts of various acclaimed authors. Journal, literature and analysis of researchers were referred for qualitative method and used as secondary data.

Gandhi's Philosophy:

Marxism has aptly described Gandhi's philosophy as dual edged, because its objective was to transform the individual and society simultaneously rather than in sequence. Gandhi compared education to the brilliance of that light which illuminates the path of life in numerous domains. The three Main principles of his philosophy rested on Bhaktiyoga or Devotion, Dnyanayoga or knowledge and Karmayoga or deeds. He stressed upon that all great religious thinkers unequivocally supported theory of truth, love, compassion and nonviolence.

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Gandhi's approach for a sustainable economy was based on the theory of keeping a check on the needs and necessities desires rather than accumulation in excess. This would enable availability of basic needs, requirements and optimum utilization of available resources to each individuals of the society. He firmly believed that the growth of local entities and enterprises would benefit the rural sector economy if the resources available locally be utilize in an effective method it would benefit each person associated thereby improvising the living standard and contribute itself to the growth and economy of the nation at large.

Gandhi was a great thinker, philosopher having strong trait of insight and foresight. Though he supported the industrialization of nation, he equally advocated the need of conserving the nature so as to keep a balance of environment. He asserted that industrialization and modernisation is an important aspects for economical growth of the country but of equal importance was the necessity of conserving and preserving the nature and maintain ecological balance for socio-cultural growth.

Gandhi always held the Indian women in high esteem and regarded them for their bravery and courage. This was owing to his own experience to them during his initial stay in South Africa. He desisted the remarks that would either defame or demoralize the women's, on the contrary he was of the opinion that the women were more than equal to men.

Gandhi got troubled upon seeing the fight on the base of religion. As he had advocated the theory of truth and love as foremost trait of religion. He always appealed to the masses that unity was an important aspect of strength. For this, each individual must shed the discrimination of caste, creed and language.

CONCLUSION:

India of present time stands in vast contrast to the philosophy of Gandhi in certain aspects. The elected representatives and members of the nation substantially, lack ideology, passion and will power to tread the path of Gandhi's philosophy and principles. This can be owing to certain ulterior motives of a few for their own vested benefits. The post-independence regime over the past decades is an example to this. However, considering the philosophy in totality and adopting the path can turn and move the nation to greater heights with a marvelous place to live. This stands true because, Gandhi emphasized that his spiritualism is related to humanism and it is the duty of each person to help the poor and poverty stricken. He said that, God lies in each and every living beings and creatures for all belong to the single creator.



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