

Gandhi and his philosophies: A sociological review

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Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi a renewed freedom fighter of India and considered the father of nation. Introduced various mode of new agitation for the freedom fight, among them satyagraha, nonviolence were played key role in India's freedom movement. History of India can be divided as before Gandhi and after Gandhi. Many of us has been admire Gandhi for his tremendous role in India's freedom movement. The present paper is intended to find out Gandhian Philosophies in sociological point of view.

Introduction

“ An old half naked Indian, who had brought one of the most powerful empires of all time to its knees. His name was Mahatma Gandhi “ ¹ This statement has given by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins in the book Freedom at Midnight. Perhaps British **empire** was the most powerful empires at that time ruled nearly 65 countries which were sovereign today, including the giants like India, Australia, dozens of African countries, Canada etc. Among all these countries the man who invented , and introduced new type of agitation for the freedom movement. The name was Mahathama Gandhi. “ Gandhi’s life in India was , among other things , a series of often intense and long – running arguments. In each of his four callings , Gandhi adopted innovative methods , which to some appeared daringly revolutionary , to others timid and reformist.” (Ramachandra Guha- Gandhi the years that changed the world. 1914-1948, Penguin books publications. 2018) Gandhiji was the one who invents new method for freedom movement. Ramachandra Guha an authoritative author on Gandhi who gave an extremely great statement that Gandhi introduced new methods as reformist and freedom fighter.

Mahathma Gandhi was born in 1869 at Porabandar, he was an Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist, and political ethicist who employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British rule. He inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. Gandhian philosophies like truth and Nonviolence and Sathyagraha were the major ideologies which are relevance today.

Concept of Sthyagraha – A Sociological context

The word ‘Satyagraha’ is Sanskrit in origin. It is a compound word formed of ‘Satya’, meaning ‘truth’ and ‘Agraha’, meaning ‘clinging, holding fast, adherence, insistence’. In other words, Satyagraha

means clinging to truth, holding fast to truth, insistence on truth, or firm adherence to truth; come what may.² (Dr. Anil Dutta Mishra....Sathyagraha)

Gandhi's Journey with Satyagraha

To address various political, social, economic, cultural injustice Gandhi applied philosophy of sathyagraha as a nonviolent resistance. For the first In South Africa Gandhi led a civil disobedience movement against discrimination among laws and racism. Thereafter Gandhiji led Champaran Sathyagraha, kheda sathyagraha, Salt March, quit India movement. According to Gandhiji Sathyagraha is not a political weapon but a holistic way of life rooted in truth nonviolence and morality. Gandhiji described Satyagraha "sacrifice of self is infinitely superior to sacrifice of others", and that a self sufferer does not make others suffer for his mistakes. Satyagraha is a matchless weapon to fight against the strongest and the mightiest power. Gandhi used and demonstrated the power of Satyagraha successfully to get India liberated from the yoke of British imperialism. It was a bloodless revolution.

In a sociological point of view the term Sathyagraha is most powerful weapon for seeking justice. Many of the people choose some other path for justice. Gandhian philosophy of sathyagraha can suitable in these days.

Gandhian Concept of Truth and Nonviolence

My religion is based on Truth and Non-Violence. Truth is my God. Non-Violence is the means of realising him"-Mahatma Gandhi.

The above statement is all about truth and nonviolence from Gandhi. According to him the religion should be teach Nonviolence. Further he said truth is God. What he experimented in his life which is surrounded by truth and nonviolence.

"Untruth does not become truth because of purity of motive. Just as a moneyed man is said to have but one eye for watching things, there is only one path of truth. Likewise, there are many paths of untruth, in the same way that a thief has as many as four eyes, as the saying goes. A person lost in this mazy network of paths is ruined and, if he happens to be a guardian or trustee, he also ruins the person whose interests he is appointed to protect(*The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*.)

The general principal of truth and it indicates that one must speak the Truth. Hence the word Satya/Truth has a broader meaning for Mahatma. To Mahathma Truth has to be observed not only in one person speech but also in action and thought. Further he added nothing in the world exists in reality but the truth. "Truth and Nonviolence are generally considered to be the two key ingredients of Gandhian thought. It is possible to pursue one without the other" (Aravind Sharma – Truth and Nonviolence. Mahathamgandhi.org)

Relevance of truth and Nonviolence

In the present situation Gandhian philosophy like truth, Nonviolence, and Sathyagraha are the most relevant today. If closely observe the present condition , the war between the countries, injustice,

inequality and social discrimination. Gandhian thought of Truth and Nonviolence can be the solution for the present situation. The. “ Today, *Gandhism* is a very confused 'ism' in India. Today many politicians in India use the term merely as a slogan and the common man make Gandhi almost out of reach of the younger groups by making Gandhi an unwilling '*avatara*'” (*Rajan Barua- Relevance of Gandhi in modern times.*)

Gandhi thoughts and the youth

In the present condition Gandhi is a out of reach from the younger generations. His ideologies and thoughts were some extent considered utopia. Yet Gandhi philosophies and thoughts are the most relevant today if we understand thoroughly. In an individual's life, the time of youth constitutes the most crucial phase for it is in this

Conclusion

Mahathma Gandhi felt that getting freedom from British rule was everyone's responsibility. Yet the freedom must come through certain ideologies such as Sathyagraha, Truth and Nonviolence. Gandhi was an important person because he led India into freedom from the British rule. Albert Einstein Said “Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this Earth”. This statement is absolutely true. Many of the world admire Gandhi for his philosophies, yet there are misunderstood and misinterpretation about Gandhi in youth. Hence, the youth of this country and all over the world should follow the ideologies of Gandhi.

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