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## Relevance Of Gandhian Philosophy In Modern Time

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### ABSTRACT

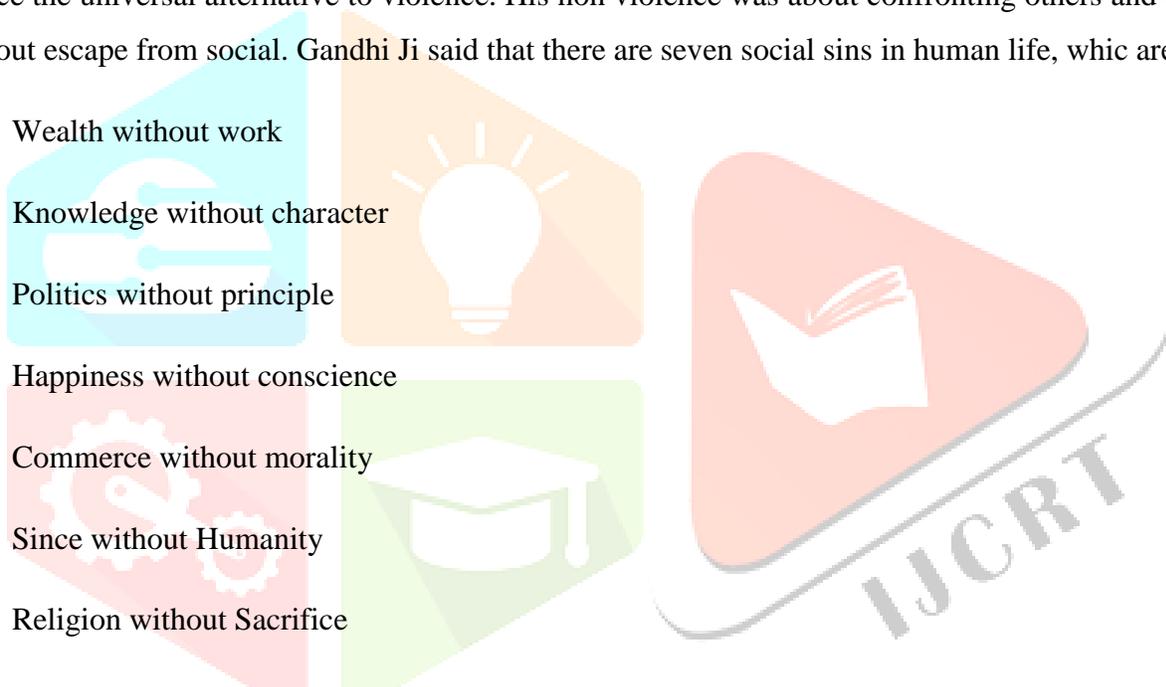
Gandhi ji has been often termed as the oracle of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Gandhianism starts with the famous line “Simple Living and High Thinking” and its objective is to transform the individual and society. Mahatma Gandhi is Considered the Most Sublime statesman of india. His ideas and views still hold a symbolic position in the country’s policy and governance. Major Gandhian ideology emphasized self reliance, non-violence and the use of peaceful protest, civil disobedience, trusteeship, swadeshi, decentralization, Cleanliness, sustainable environment, women empowerment and anti-castiesim. These philosophy has the most relevance today in world wide. Most Powerful philosophy non-violence is relevant today. He thought that any problem could be solved without using violence to gain advantage or raise your voice. Non-Violence, kindness and empathy can be used to win battles and even wars. His idea of satyagrah, meant the triumph of the soul force over the brutal force. Gandhi ji communicated a classic massage to the nation through his effort to educated people around him about cleanness. He wished to see a “Clean India”. To work seriously towards this vision of Gandhi ji, Indian Government launched the *Swatch Bharat Abhiyan* on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. Trusteeship holds relevance in the current scenario as people leave a lavish life style. Gandhi ji believed that the wealthy people could be persuaded to part with their wealth to help the poor. He advocated women empowerment swadeshi and worked on anti-castiesim and rural development. In present, Indian Government working on all his ideology. Gandhi ji believed on the basic philosophy “Be the Change that You Want to See”. Which Continue to guide the present civil Society.

Keywords : Non Violence, Relevance, Decentralization, Trusteeship and Ethical.

## INTRODUCTION

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the Saint and a moral revolutionary. Gandhi has exercised the most powerful influences on modern world. Mahatma Gandhi is not merely a political philosopher, it is a message and philosophy of life. It embodies many of the western influences that Gandhi ji was exposed to, but is rooted in ancient Indian culture and adheres to universal moral and religious principles. The Gandhian approach emphasizes not idealism but on practical idealism. Gandhi ji Vision was Influenced by various inspirational sources and heroes like Bhagvat Gita, Jainism, Buddhism, Bible, Gopal Krishna Gokhle, Tolstoy, John Ruskin etc. There is Great relevancy of Gandhian Political Philosophy, Gandhi was one of those philosopher who believed in self sacrifice, Satyagrah, Non- Cooperation. The central characteristic of Gandhi Ji's Leadership was his intense identification with people and events. Gandhi single-Handedly made non violence the universal alternative to violence. His non violence was about confronting others and exploitation, not about escape from social. Gandhi Ji said that there are seven social sins in human life, which are the–

1. Wealth without work
2. Knowledge without character
3. Politics without principle
4. Happiness without conscience
5. Commerce without morality
6. Since without Humanity
7. Religion without Sacrifice



## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To gain familiarity with Gandhi and philosophy.
2. To achieve new insight of Gandhi's Ideals.
3. To examine the relevance of Gandhian philosophy in the context of contemporary world, peace and conflict.

## METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

The Methodology of the study would be historical and analytical. It is based on the method of document review in accordance with the qualitative approach to research. Analysis is based on autobiography of the Gandhi Ji and other author's books on Gandhi Ji with documents.

## MAJOR IDEOLOGY OF GANDHI JI

Mahtama Gandhi is not Merely a political philosopher, it is a message and philosophy of life. His mission was to reconstruct India from below to upwards a decentralised, socio-political and economic order with india's myriad villages as its base. He was very much concerned with nature, poor, deprived and the downtrodden. He was intender to alter the evil, political, social and economic system of the people. Gandhi Ji is universally known as the most renowned theorist, philosopher and the practitioner of truth, love, non-violence, tolerance freedom and peace. He was the leader of his people. Major Gandhian ideology are –

1. Truth and Non-violence
2. Satyagrah
3. Sarvoday
4. Swaraj
5. Trusteeship
6. Swadeshi

## APPLICATION OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GANDHIAN IDEOLOGY

### 1. Non-Violence – Peace and Stability in the World

Non-violence is a key component of Gandhianism. Which was the great weapon used by Gandhi Ji during the freedom movement of India against British way. Gandhi Ji belived non-violence and tolerance require a great level of courage and passions. In a world that is moving though the phases of war marred by violence and terrorism. There is a significance requirement of Gandhian Idea of non-violence more and more than the past days. If we look at Gandhian's philosophy, then non-violence will be considered the most relevant one in the present times. In the present world scenario the way nuclear weapon are coded, every one is busy trying to each other. In such a situation, if we look at the possibility of third world war then Gandhi Ji principle of non-violence will have to kept at the forefront. If the devotee Gandhi Ji had not kept forward the principle of non-violence because of the freedom that was given to India, then perhaps th British would have shed to much blood in India. It would have been rare for Indians to get Independence but non-violence was such a big weapon through which Gandhi Ji faced every adverse situation in many ways. Recently if we look at Russia-Ukraine war if these two countries had been a personality like Gandhi who would have avoided the possibility of this war or had tried to find a solution through dialogue then perhaps this would not have

reached the brink of war. Today all the countries of the world use to give up violence and create mutual coordination through non-violence.

## 2. **Gandhian as form of Socialism**

Gandhian View of socialism is not political but more social in its approach, as Gandhi Ji thought of a society with no poverty, no hunger, no unemployment, and education and health for all. These Gandhian ideologies will continue to act the light house for Indian policy maker. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, Pradhanmantri Awas Yojna, Pradhan Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojna and Universal Health Care (Ayushman Bharat) to skill India programmes everywhere the core inspiration comes from Gandhianism. At present, the governance is determining policies keeping in mind “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas”.

## 3. **Decentralization – Gramin Bharat Concept**

Gandhian Idea of decentralization of power can be implemented in democracy through empowered local self governments at grass route level. Indian government, for instance, has implemented local self government by adopting the Panchayati raj and Municipality system in rural and urban areas respectively. Gandhi Ji found the only way of bringing hope of good living to the rural people by making the village the central place in the economic programme. Rural development as outlined by Gandhi Ji Contained self-sufficiency, interdependence for other wants and development of village industrial. The Gandhian Model of rural development is based on the following values – “Rural India is Found not in its Cities, But in its Villages”. Mahatma Gandhi had a vision to develop rural India and tried all villages would be self dependent. Taking his idea forward, the government has brought schemes like MGNREGA for rural development. In present, this scheme is working on increase economic security of rural people and prevent migration to cities. Gandhi Ji’s concept of pre independence rural India its being realised today. The products being manufactured in rural area of India are being provided and international platform.

## 4. **Secularism**

Gandhianism was to learnt towards all religions and the world today needs more and more religiously and faith wise tolerant people in society where violence is committed in the name of religion. Gandhi Ji used to respect all religions. The Secular Ideologies of Gandhi Ji are not only there in Indian constitution but also there in Indian society as a core value system. Gandhi Ji believed on “Sarv Dharam Sambhav”.

## 5. Creation of Casteless Society

Gandhi Ji was against the cast system and coined the term “Harijan” to pay respect to the lower cast people. He did not consider “Varna” to be a man made institution but the law of life universally governing the human family. He did not enter the premises of the temples where lower cast people were not allowed. Thus Gandhian philosophy is useful create a castles society where every one is treated equality irrespective of there cast.

## 6. Cleanliness

Gandhi Ji laid great emphasis under cleanliness or Swachta, as he used to say – “Swachta his Sewa”. He first realised the importance of cleanliness. He did the cleaning himself. The truth here is that without clean and unhealthy environment we will not be able to develop as a good nation. For Mahtma Gandhi, cleanliness was more important than freedom. Gandhi Ji dream was Clean India. His approach to this was quite creative and revolutionary. The recent Swach Bharat Abhiyan or Swach Bharat Misson is the biggest cleanliness drive of India is to fulfil the dream of Gandhi Ji by making India clean.

## 7. Sustainable Environment

Gandhi Ji Said that “Earth has enough for Human Greeds”. They told us that the earth, air, land and water are not a land inherited from our forefather but is the heritage of our children. Gandhi Hi had said that the seeds of its destruction lie in the modern urban industrial civilization it self. Keeping in mind Gandhi Ji goal of sustainable development, today not only India but the entire world is ready to fulfil the characteristics of sustainable development by twenty third. The world is whirling under the burden of global warming, climate change and resource and all environmental conservation treaties and sustainable development effort must implement this Gandhian Philosophy.

## 8. Women Empowerment

Gandhi Ji did not want women to become the subject of empowerment, rather he believed that women are so successful in themselves, not only in there right but they were considered as a whole. He was of the mind that if women were liberated had it happened, it would have made them freedom. The truth about women of Mahtma Gandhi has mostly been scene by combining it with his autobiography “Satya have My Experiment” but even during that period, the improvement in his thinking regarding women empowerment is an example for the people of this era. Today is the time to revisit Gandhi Ji’s Thoughts. As far as the social status of the women is concerned, it is better than previous era, now days women are participating in almost all walks off life and earning their livelihood and becoming financially independent. Through Panchayat raj institution, millions of women in India have actively

entered the political life. Even in the constitution as per the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> constitution amendment acts all local elected bodies reserve one-third of their seats for women. No social reformer has done as much works as Mahtma Gandhi to bring uneducated women out of the confines of their homes. Their for, their is a need to no th Gandhian efforts for women empowerments in the present era. Keeping women empowerment in mine the present government is providing the reservation for women in parliament has been increase 33%. (September 2023)

## 9. **Swadeshi**

Gandhi Ji thought of Swadeshi is still prevalent in our society by taking step towards making India self-reliant. The word swadeshi derives from Sanskrit. Sanskrit words “Swa” means self or own and “Desh” means country. So Swadesh means once own country. Gandhi Ji was the first Indian to highlight the importance of “Swadesh” while underlining the dreadful form of merchanzation in his book “Hind Swaraj” in the year 1909. During th covid times when India was witnessing a severe economic crises, prime minister Narendar Modi called “Atma Nirbhar Bharat”, the second version of swadeshi. This swadeshi form aims to make the country self-reliant. In order to free the country from the shackles of hunger, unemployment, poverty, swadeshi is the best path to unshackle these. In present we can see Gandhi Ji Swadeshi ideology in the form of Making India Programme. The concept of swadeshi or Make in India not only emphasizes on making the product in the country but now it also emphasizes on generating employment in the country.

## 10. **Gandhi Ji Views on Education**

According to him the education system should be such that it provides knowledge of good and bad to a person and inspires him to become moral. He considered education as powerful medium for the all round development of human beings. There for in the Wardha Plan, he had emphasized on making the first seven years of education free and compulsory. Gandhi Ji believed in such education which provides employment and skill development of the individual. Under the new education policy 2020, comprehensive format has been prepared for education. Kasturi Ranjan (Head of the Committee) said the new education policy envisages education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and providing employable skills without, compromising on quality. New education policy is based on skill development.

## 11. **Ethical View of Gandhian in Civil Services**

Truth Lies at the core of Gandhian philosophy as he himself has tried to remain truthful through out his life. Gandhian view of truth was irreversible in different contexts irrespective of the urgency of the situation. This was why Gandhi Ji Cancelled the non-cooperation movement after the satyagrah is deviated from the path of truth and a violent incident of Chauri Chaura took place. He said that to implement the spirit of service, emphasis should be laid on one’s duties and responsibilities and not on

rights. He said that scarifies is the law of life and service should involve self scarifies or it should not control every step of life. Gandhi Ji said that character reflects the moral strength of a person. Character is formed within a person or is the key to success. A person of character from make himself worthy of any situation. Character reveals the worth of the person himself. Family and educational background helps in building character.

## CONCLUSSION

After many Years of the martyrdom, Gandhi Ji is now more relevant on global level than before. The central philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi's life is Moral Education. Mahtma Gandhi is universally accepted as an exemplary model of moral life. He believed that moral and spiritual in every situation, life should be developed with truth. He successfully led a non-violence struggle against racial discrimination, colonial rule, economic and social exploitation and moral degradation. Gandhi Ji will remain relevant as long as violence continues to be expressed in various form. As a citizen of the world every one should be encouraged to follow the example of Mahtma Gandhi. He led a bloodless struggle for the freedom of a nation and our love for love, peace and lasting happiness in the hearts of millions of human beings. Sarvodaya was his secrets.

Thus a discussed above, given the fact the Gandhian principles are extremely relevant not only nationally but also worldwide.

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