

Gandhian Views on Truth and Non-Violence

Dr. Raju Kalmesh Sawant, N. D. Patil Night College, Sangli.

I) Introduction -

Gandhiji's philosophy even today, relevant to all aspects of human life including . Gandhiji was a humanitarian, great philosopher, educationist and was propagator of Indian culture. Gandhian Philosophy was based on the principles of truth and nonviolence. The spirit of young people should be directed into the right channels, otherwise it can do harm to us. The control of society should be righteous method. Righteous method is backed by truth and nonviolence. India was a gold land because Indian had gold heart. The land is still the same but it has become desert because we are corrupt, selfish, immoral and lack of spirituality. Rich people accumulate the wealth at the cost of the poor. If money in the hands of good men it helps in the cultivation of land and reap the crops. The country is rich which nourishes, and respect the noble people. The man is rich who functions of his own life morally and influences others. For this Gandhiji followed the important vows. People were impressed by the unarmed principles.

He emphasized the human life entire humanity should pursue the truth and nonviolence. Gandhiji practiced moral ideals for realization of truth. Gandhiji concluded that god is truth and truth is god. Truth relates to sympathy and love in the sense of nonviolence. The rigorous efforts should be made to follow the vows. There should be truth in thought, speech and action. There can be no world peace without true knowledge. By single minded devotion, honest efforts and indifference to all truth can be realized. The pursuit of truth leads to God and there is no place to cowards to defeat. Gandhi was a great follower of truth and nonviolence. His sense of duty became the base of his philosophy. The mankind has right to lead a life through truth and nonviolence. Welfare philosophy is inclusive philosophy which is based on the principle of ethics. The way we treat the people is the reflection of our morality.

II) Objectives of the Study -

- 1) Gandhi's Concept of Truth and Non-violence
- 2) Ethics of Gandhiji
- 3) Values in the life
- 4) Inclusive Philosophy

1) Gandhi's Concept of Truth and Non-violence:-

According to Gandhi, 'devotion to truth is the sole justification for our existence. All our activities should be centered in Truth. Truth should be the very breath of our life. Without truth it would be impossible to observe any principles or rules in life.' Satya is the only reality, which holds whole universe together. Satya is a moral virtue. For acquiring this moral virtue complete fearlessness and non-possession (aparigraha) are required. He thought that only a man with a selfless motive can be courageous and speak the truth. One should speak the truth in polite and sweet language and not harshly.

Gandhi himself declared that, Ahimsa is my God and Truth is also. When I look for Ahimsa, truth says, 'find it through me. When I look for truth, Ahimsa says, 'find it out through me.' The pursuit of truth is the real path that leads to God. Only courageous people can pursue the truth.

Man is full of fear about his own safety and security. It is this desire which makes him fear everything other than himself. Gandhi's attempt was to see God or Truth in everything as he believed that there was supreme power, which was all pervading, in which everything lived and moved. To Gandhi God was truth; God was love and God was law. For living a truthful life we need purification of mind, shedding of all selfish desires, rising above the weaknesses, constant effort at seeing truth, realizing truth, and establishing truth through service and total sacrifice. In matter of finding truth, the path of spirituality, which is based on reason and morality was the real guide.

2) Ethics of Gandhiji:

Ethics is a normative science of conduct applied voluntarily. Gandhiji believed that all people should be equal to one another and should live together in peace. He believed that violence was not the correct way to bring about justice in the world. The idea of universal human brotherhood is a moral value. The way we treat the people is reflection of our morality. Gandhiji built his lifework around the moral values. Gandhiji believed in the limitation of wants i.e. Simple living and high thinking. He emphasized unity in all religions and brought the social significance, virtues in the personal life. Love and sympathy, devotion and dedication, sufferings and sacrifice are the important values in the life. He was karmayogi, political leader, social reformer, friend for poor, a man of god, a saint and apostle of peace and nonviolence with divine mission. Gandhi's life was simple. According to him life should be oriented towards the service of humanity at large i.e. welfare of society. Ideal society is based on love cooperation and

truth. Gandhii's ethical and spiritual values are away from material greed. Gandhiji rejected industrialization, competition, decay of SSI, exploitation of labour and moral degradation. The adoption of non Gandhian model pushed the society into poverty and created cynical elite class. Hence, the corruption and immorality increased. Gandhian thoughts relates to various facets of life which concerned to religious, moral, political, economic, social, individual and collective life. It can be perused with unified integrated philosophy. He does not know any religion apart from human activity. Gandhi supported moral and spiritual life. He always stood for simpler and ascetic life. Any society should free from violence and exploitation. He stressed the fact that nation without ethics and basic human values cannot provide a nonviolent and peaceful life to its citizens. Hence, he gave more importance to humanlife rather than material life. He emphasized human capital rather than money capital. He considers if human capital likely to grow then nations happiness will increase, because self-disciplined attitude enhances the happy life. It is possible through human values. The business chosen by the family should be free from debt and credit. The business should not be used to become rich quickly because it was considered as sin.

3) Values in the life:

It is difficult to separate politics from values, when world is facing the violence. Under such circumstances also world will become peaceful, if we follow the truth and nonviolence. Gandhiji believed that unarmed truth and unconditional love all the time helped the welfare of the society. Peace is the beauty of its sunshine. It is the smile of child, love, joy of the family. Love yourself because, love comes from inside. Gandhiji concluded that god is truth and vice-versa and truth relates to love and again love in the sense nonviolence. Truth gives happiness and true love means nonviolence. To understand the god is truth, it is need to watch the society. Our belief is based on experience. Those who make individual god must go vows like truth, purity, nonviolence and non-possession. One should impose the vows to experience it. The righteous method is essential to follow the vows. There should be truth in thought, truth in speech, and truth in action. All knowledge is included in it. And there can be no world peace without true knowledge. If we know how to apply this test of truth, then we come to know what is worth doing, seeing and reading. Realization of truth is linked with philosopher's stone. By single minded devotion, honest efforts and indifference to all truth can be realized. Quest for truth involves tapas, self-suffering and even unto the death. Pursuit of truth is

true devotion. This path leads to god and there is no place for cowardice to defeat.

4) Inclusive Philosophy:

Welfare philosophy has been evolved on the goodness of human nature which involves service to man and application of ethics. It is similar to love, thy neighbours as thyself. This philosophy is called inclusive philosophy. The last is equal to first or no one is to be first and no one is to be last. This is the human happiness of mental and moral growth. Eliminate the mutual hate and bias so as to bring the mankind on the right track. Spiritual happiness in the life comes only when people work without any expectations. (Do you deed and don't expect anything in return). Gandhiji was a man of vision and mission. He always directed his efforts for happiness of the society. He created a moral atmosphere. Gandhiji's truth and nonviolence is the cultivation of a spirit of truth.

III) Conclusion -

Truth and Non- violence are closely interrelated. They are the two sides of a same coin. Gandhi used truth and non- violence as social and political weapons in fighting against evils and injustice. Gandhi employed the moral weapons to end domestic, social, political, economical, religious and cultural problems and conflicts. His philosophy of truth and non- violence transcends all regional, religious and cultural barriers. Gandhi would have liked India to become a non-violent state of his dreams and deliver the message of non- violence to the rest of mankind.

IV) References –

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