



Global Warming and Relevance of Gandhiji's Thoughts on Environment

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ABSTRACT

In modern times, industrial culture, machinery invasion and increase in industries, by re-examining the ideas of Gandhiji, have become an inspirational source for bringing the awareness of its relevance and by putting it in practice to bring Green Revolution and to form an independent society. The main reason for the problems in current environment is due to the industrial revolution. In this industrial revolution the productivity has been increased due to machines and technology and to sell this manufactured products raised the demand for new markets, which led to global integration. As a result world was divided in to two- 1. 1/4th population in rich countries. 2. 3/4th population in poor countries. Therefore, today the world is facing triple problems like globalization, increase in global warming and poverty. If there is a solution for this then it is the lifestyle based on ideas of Gandhiji. For this nature lovers, Gandhi thinkers and social workers appeals to adopt the 'green economy'.

KEYWORDS : Global Warming, Gandhiji's Thoughts, Environment, Pollution

INTRODUCTION

Since the origin of man a close relationship has been found between man and environment. As mixture of five elements can be seen in environment in the same way human body is made up of mixture of five elements. Sky was the first joined element originated from heaven, from sky wind, from wind water, from water earth and from earth human body originated. In such way, there is an inseparable and originator relation between humans and environment.

But mankind has jeopardized the environmental balance by using the natural resources excessively for their physical pleasures and prosperity. The journey from the plain to luxurious lifestyle have created the world's first crisis as environmental problems.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS: GLOBAL WARMING.

According to historical texts from primitive Stone Age to the era where humans discovered fire, global warming has affected the environment in one way or another which have enhanced global warming. When metal was detected, the mining process started to obtain it. Cut and burned trees for agriculture. From Stone Age this type of revolution came in human life which is also known as Neo-lithic Revolution

As a result of Industrial Revolution, the changes induced in the current environmental crisis have been excessively and widely extended. These changes have taken the form of ubiquitous and global revolution. Threat to the existence of mankind and earth has been raised who has affected the entire living organisms, mankind, agriculture and animal husbandry.

GLOBAL VISION OF GANDHIJI: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IDEAS

The thoughts and ideas given by Gandhiji the modern initiatives for environment preservation can be observed. He firmly believed that as human will go on empowering the nature he will become more and more alienated from it. This is the base of modern green movement. Gandhiji have given the gift of his thoughts to the world, of which in the context of present problems if we see the consistency of his ideas,

He firmly believed that, verse of Ishavasya Upanishad should be discovered by sacrificing and donating. He has always ignored the materialism. In Manchester like Ahmedabad, he established the Ashram on the bank of river abarmati. Gave the principle of saint culture in city culture. He says 'My life is my message' and presented his ideals of life to the world. In context of this, our Honourable Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi said in this speech that he was the man to hold the lowest carbon foot print in his lifetime.

GANDHIJI'S IDEAS FOR CLEANLINESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

For cleanliness and public health Gandhiji believed that in 'divinity is in cleanliness'. He did cleaning on his own. He performed cleanliness movement at that time through which a healthy society can be created. He believed that the clean natural environment automatically strengthens the mind and body. In letter dated- 11-1-1913 he wrote that nature has given the medium for it in the body. So when body is sick we have to understand that there is some impurity in our body and body has started the process of purifying it. According to the excerpt of his letter dated- 4-8-1946, My idea of developing nature care in Urulikanchan and the villages of India is fast expanding. It means teaching is hygiene of the body, mind and soul of the individual and society. Thus the workers in Urulikanchan have, besides cleaning the streets of the village and attending to their bodily ailments through the judicious use of earth, sun either, light and water to attend the pauperism of the criminal tribes called the gaudis described in law as one of the criminal tribes of India. The thoughts given above are about the natural treatment which is entirely dependent on natural environment. If this natural environment is corrupted then the health of entire human race will be endangered.

In Gandhiji's words, the earth, the air, the land and water are not an inheritance from our fore fathers but on loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it been handed over to us.

He gives much importance to diet purification. There is an unbreakable relation between diet- mind and nature. Today, this view point has also been scientifically proven. By checking the diet of Gandhiji through religious, scientific pragmatic vision said that, as man live together but don't each other, similarly man has gotten the kingdom of nature(animals, birds and other living things) but he shouldn't be eating it.

GANDHIJI'S IDEAS ABOUT THE BALANCE OF ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

For welfare of society Gandhiji gave the ideal for simple living and high thinking. Took initiative to return to nature and re-awakened the saint culture. Gandhiji's ideas or methods are not same and his far-sightedness is not framed or final. He established 'Tolstoy Karm' and 'Phoenix Ashram' in South Africa. In Ahmedabad he established first Kochrab Ashram (1915), Sabarmati Ashram and Harijan Ashram. This is the perfect vision point of the love of nature.

From the Tolstoy's book 'Vaikunth is in your Heart' created the ideal for world of love and welfare of society. According to Gandhiji Varnashram is the unique gift given to world by Hindu culture. In his opinion sacrifice is the function of Varnashram. Brahmin of his knowledge,

Kshatriya of his protection power, Vaishya of his trading power and Shudra of his body used to do the sacrifice.

GANDHIJI'S VISION ON POLLUTION FREE AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Gandhiji said that true India is located in 7 lakh villages. And to make the village economy self-sufficient and to maintain cleanliness, health and elegance and to make this he presented the ideal for agriculture that were practical but also protecting the nature geographically.

1. khadi (spinning wheel, charkhi)
2. Agriculture

Both makes self-sufficient with fulfilling the basic needs with the environment conversation policy can be seen. For this he states that,

To improve the condition of rural area I want to make agriculture, animal husbandry and other village industries to make them healthy and self-sufficient on the basis of universe.

Gandhiji's long-term vision= disagree with modern agriculture.

For modern agriculture that is done by using large amount of electricity and steam, for that in starting only Gandhiji said that to obtain profit from the farming, the fertility of the land will decrease. To ripe the crops fertilizers of hard work shall be used instead of chemical fertilizers. This thought clearly states that the such means in agriculture shall be used that can maintain the balance of nature.

Further Gandhiji stated that for economy of village the base is pure and healthy food with proper amount of pure ghee, milk, and oil shall be obtained. And also gives the importance to pure water. Gandhiji said that by tractor land will be cultivated and water pumps will be used for machine making the villages the slave of cities. They will have to go to cities for buying the tractors and have to be dependent to install the water machines and pumps.as a result village not be independent from the capital economy. He said in Hind Swaraj that, due to railway man made causalities increased. As a result of pollution will increase. And so he said that what will man receive if he receives the whole world in exchange of their soul? Means by protecting environment development shall be connected. Development done by harming the environment is not development but destruction.

Traditionally farmers will have lack of knowledge, but will have almost all the ideals for living the life. For example- on Akhatrij farmer will start farming. These cultural and spiritual features will be seen in the blood of farmers. But these ideals will not be seen in the farmers of Europe. And thus, Gandhiji stated that, if farmers use the modern farming then many changes will be seen in their simple life creating imbalance in the environment. This situation can be clearly seen today. Gandhiji's ideas shall be reawakened to maintain the self-sufficiency to maintain village economy and environmental balance.



My true test of non-violence will come when I'm shot by an assassin, and I am able to die without holding any malice toward my assassin.

Mahatma Gandhi

CONCLUSIONS

The most serious problem of 21st century-Global warming and for its prevention if there is any way or measure and that is lifestyle based on the Gandhi's thinking. If changes are made in every sector on the basis of ideas of Gandhiji then protection against this world's problem can be obtained. If we distinguish the main factor of the ecological balance on the basis of Gandhiji's life then we get three "S" for the ecological balance Gandhiji gave "Simplicity, Cleanliness and Self-sufficiency". If all these three are in order then ecological balance can be maintained. And if one "S" is subtracted which can be said as the battle for human existence, it means that in place of environment and humans balance with each other, "balance" will come. With this purpose, we have to make our consumption, lifestyle, living standards and living processes as environment protected. For this, we must re-establish the practice of environmental culture and life. To create a life which is environment protected we should assimilate Gandhiji's "Simple living and High Thinking" so that environment can be protected. So with the viewpoint of Gandhiji as a part of the environmental protective measure.

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