



Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy in Today's Scenario

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ABSTRACT *Mahatma Gandhi was a great philosopher, education and sociologist who led India to independence and inspired movements for non-violence, civil rights and freedom across the world. His philosophy was based on truth, non-violence and ethics. He was fully aware of the problems of Indians and he kept this thing in mind, when he tracked about focusing of education on job-orientation, character formation, social development and giving sex-education and basic education. When we relate these aims of education with existing condition in the society we feel that the education in schools and colleges its not fulfilling the target of job orientation and the child is now more involved in violence and other anti-social activities. The number of crime done by adolescents is increasing in every country throughout the world. The demand of the situation is that the philosophy of Gandhi should be followed seriously and only in that condition we can save humanity and could do overall development of the child.*

Mahatma Gandhi was a great philosopher, educationist and sociologist who led India to Independence and inspired movements for non-violence, civil rights and freedom across the world. He had spent a long time in England and South Africa, so his thinking process was influenced by Western culture also. He had a deep knowledge of Geeta, Kuran and Bible. The important point of Gandhi Ji Educational views was that he was fully aware of the problems of Indians and he kept this thing in mind while imparting educational views.

On one side he supported the aims of old Indian Education System and on other side he modified them according to modern period. His philosophy is a master-piece of co-ordination between Naturalism, Pragmatism and Idealism. The Gandhian thought is based on such philosophy and tradition, which is basically secular and give answers to all questions, which are full of ecological consciousness. Philosophy of Gandhi is based on three fundamentals – truth, non-violence and ethics, which are not only conceptual frames but also virtual applications.

The focus of Gandhi philosophy was educational thoughts. In the coming text we will discuss his educational thoughts briefly and side by side we will also see its relevance in today's scenario.

According to him the aims of education should be

(a) Job-Orientated

He was of the opinion that by education we should be able to draw out the best from child's body, mind and spirit. He further said that literacy in itself is no education. According to him education should be a kind of insurance against unemployment. For that he focused on handy-craft and education by industry.

If we look into today's scenario than we all feel that the their is a need of such type of education because if we look around we will see a lot of unemployed and under-employed youth moving here and there. Due to which a filling of dissatisfaction and depression is growing in the youth. For jobs the youth has to look towards the other Countries. For example in Punjab State of India their are about 80% of families whose one or the other member is working abroad and sending money to their families who are residing in India. Recently there was an article in The Times of India, in which the corporate sector has raised eyebrows regarding the poor quality of IIT'ians being produced. Now days the school education,

which we are providing now a days is just a whitewash, which is have no use to the students and every year the number is increasing. The worst part is that the fees which is given by poor parents is a mere wastage because their wards are not able to perform well as they are not able to provide them extra classes after school and in govt. schools the quality is deteriorating day by day. Due to his poor parents are becoming poorer.

In this direction serious effort is required by the govt. and this could be only possible if we follow the idea of basic education of Gandhi.

(b) Character Formation

In his philosophy character formation was given much importance as compared to literacy because in character he includes purity of soul, ideas, activities and non-violence.

When we look towards the headlines of media of USA, UK we come to know that frequency of violence occurring in schools of these countries is increasing day by day and the educationist of these countries are worried a lot today. We also feel that character of the society is going down and it needs a upliftment. Now days even the political parties are taking help of violence in raising their issues, which is a serious threat to democracy. After industrialization and increase in the rise of cost of living, now men and women are both working to meet their daily needs. Sometime they have to come late from their offices and on the way from office to home they are always scared because of the rise of anti-social elements. These anti-social elements are the result of impurity of soul and ideas. So here the need is to make the curriculum in school according to Gandhian views and teach them Bhagwatgeeta, Upanishad, spirituality, meditation so that then purity of souls and ideas could be done and they can move on the path of non-violence.

(c) Social Development

According to him aim of education should not only be to impart knowledge but it should be focused on social development of child. The child should learn how to live in the society and obey the norms of the society.

Now the world is passing through a phase of social mobility. Due to which social unrest is there in the society and her only the responsible individuals could help in keeping the harmony of the society otherwise social riots could occur. It could harm the democratic system. Which Gandhi Ji had al-

ways pushed forward. When we see from Gandhian Angle Life is not individualistic but whole. Discipline and responsibility cannot be imposed from outside but they have to emerge from within. When they follow this in life, their life will become more beautiful and will enjoy healthy relations with their parents, sister, brother, wife, neighbors, friends, classmates, colleagues, junior, senior etc.

(d) Sex-Education

Regarding sex education he said sexual science is of two kinds: one, which is used for controlling or overcoming the sexual passion and second which is used to stimulate and feed it. Instruction in the former is as necessary as part of child's education as the latter is harmful and dangerous and fit therefore only to be shunned. When we look around we find that the crime against fair sex is rising, like you see in Nirbhaya rape case in which one of the culprits was a boy of age below 18. Again we take example of Bombay rape case: we came to know that two of the three culprits were minor. So, viewing the present situation, we feel that there is a great need of imparting sex education to the school going students. Here again we look towards Gandhi Ji's philosophy who advocates that base of sex education should be imparting right knowledge to girls and boys about their sexual organs, their use and how to control their sexual desires. We should avoid the situation where we can't make a difference between a man and an animal. That's why Gandhi Ji focused more on character formation.

(e) Women Education

He was in the favor of women education because of the poor condition of women in India. Gandhi Ji strongly favored the emancipation of women and he went so far as to say that "the women have come to look upon me as one of themselves" he opposed purdah, child-marriage, untouchability and the extreme oppression of Hindu widows and sati's.

The same is been recommended by Kothari Commission and New Education Policy. The Indian Govt. is working in this direction and the situation of women education is at a better platform as compared to earlier times.

When we look towards these aims of education which were given by Gandhi Ji, we feel that still a lot has to be done specially in the area of character formation, sex education, social development of the child keeping the society in mind and last but not the least focus should be on basic education according to which proper time should be given for singing, dancing, craft education, SUPW in time table, which is being some how followed by the private schools for making their curriculum interesting but there is a need of this to be followed in Govt. schools of rural areas also as Gandhi Ji true India lives in villages.

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