

UGC Granted Minor Research Project

**“ Jagtikikarana Sandharbhat Mahatma Gandhijinchya vicharanchi
Prasangikta”**

Summary

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1. Importance of Research

The 21st century characterised by Technology, Innovation and Globalisation has greatly added to the comforts of human life. However, the progress has not added happiness to our lives. In turn, it has increased distance between us. Terrorism, Communal violence, Global warming, Corruption, Recession and Unemployment have further added to the agonies of human life. We need solutions to all these concerns in order to ensure world peace. Interestingly, these concerns were predicted by Mahatma Gandhi long ago. Mahatma Gandhi proposed, for an ideal life, the philosophy of Truth, Non-violence, Satyagraha, Secularism, *Swadesi*, Equality, and Justice. This philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi is well equipped to present Peace, Stability, Prosperity and Happiness to the world and hence, is coveted in various fields. An immense importance is attached to Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy, study and opinions.

The rise of Terrorism, Communal violence across India has resulted in loss of several innocent people, traders, police officers and administrators. Non-violence as proposed by Mahatma Gandhi can be a solution to these issues. As the world continues to be possessed by terrorism Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts on Non-violence are empowering and can bring about radical changes for world peace. Gandhian Philosophy can be very well put to use to contain Terrorism to a great extent.

A steady increase in alcohol addiction among the youth has been observed. Gandhian Philosophy can be inspiring and thus, enable the youth to restrain from these vices. Intoxication can cause physical, social and economic losses and hence, Mahatma Gandhi appealed the young to avoid the addiction.

The tremendous growth of industrialisation is posing various environmental concerns. Mahatma Gandhi emphasised the need to maintain the balance between mechanization and environment. Mahatma Gandhi believed, there exists an emotional bond between the man and the nature. This very belief can help address the issues of Pollution, Deforestation, and Environmental imbalance. Nature endures human life and teaches discipline. However, unprecedented destruction of nature has endangered the human existence itself. All of this can be attributed more to the human greed than need.

Mahatma Gandhi preached austerity. Gandhi's teaching on manual labour and self-sufficiency is valuable as immoral ways to accumulate wealth and easy money continue to pose as attractive options.

Mahatma Gandhi proposed to combine spirituality to politics to further the address the political issues related to corruption and centralisation of power. He also hoped to foster integration among Politics, religion and ethics.

Non-cooperation can be an effective tool to resist injustice in present times. Mahatma Gandhi practiced non-cooperation to put to productive use the strength of society. The 21st century calls for the application of this tool to address a wide array of problems in the society. Tolerance, Benevolence, non-violence and secularism can together solve the persisting problems and assure progress to the mankind as a whole. Politics, Economics, Commercialisation, Agriculture, Medicine, Religion, and Environmental Sciences are the few of many areas which require Gandhian Philosophy.

The evolution of society through self-sufficiency and austerity are some of the various aspects of Gandhian Philosophy.

Intolerance and Inequality prevalent in the society can be addressed through Gandhi's thoughts on Untouchability. These principles can guide the world towards achieving equality and amity in the society and thereby, prove to be of significant importance towards strengthening the humankind.

The inevitability can be further established given the diminishing values, morale and fading ideologies. The society today indeed requires more ideals than laws. It is virtually impossible to create a law for every ideology. These ideals can be derived from Gandhi's philosophy and should be imbibed into the new generation.

Mahatma Gandhi's teachings can address the ubiquitous concerns across India including Terrorism, Sovereignty, Crime, Corruption, Poverty, Inequality, Oppression, Unemployment, Malnutrition, Environmental degradation. Gandhian philosophy may appear difficult in application in today's age of Information Technology but are highly effective.

Gandhiji's ideologies have been adopted by great leaders including Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King under various instances. The greatness of Gandhian thoughts is reaffirmed when Barrack Obama proclaims Gandhi's ideology has always been his source of inspiration. A solution to any concern arising around the world can be obtained through Gandhian philosophy. An eternal nature of this ideology has the strength to solve problems on a global scale.

A noble prize winner proclaims, "Gandhiji's methods may appear difficult and tiresome but ensure to address number of issues of global importance." World peace can be ensured when mutual hatred and wars can be ended by following the path of non-violence.

Gandhiji's principles have idealised various movements across the world including Movement for Equality, Environmental Movement. A very recent account of the same is the Movement against corruption by Baba Ramdev and Anna Hazare is an example that Gandhiji's thoughts still continue to influence the leaders, intellectuals and reformists. Mahatma Gandhi's principles therefore, are of great importance today. Gandhiji's principles of truth and non-violence are indeed the treasures in today's age.

2. Conclusions:

1. Globalization has increased production, improved efficiency and raised the standard of living. However, it has also widened the rift between the rich and the poor. The reach of the benefits of Globalization is untenable as the problems of Subsistence agriculture, Unemployment, poverty, lack of transportation still continue to persist in rural parts of the country. The concern on the trickle-down effect of Globalization to the common man is still unaddressed. Mahatma Gandhi not only predicted these problems but also suggested measures to address them. The system based on decentralisation and self sufficiency of Indian villages as advocated by Gandhi is the need of the hour. Further research has yielded the solutions to the aforementioned problems as given by Gandhi and Chapter 1 presents these solutions. Objective 1 has been achieved in this chapter.
2. The rise of Globalization and Competition has led to the decline of morale and human values such as sacrifice and benevolence. The importance of Gandhian values is thus, further emphasised. Gandhi proposed to conquer the enemy by love and affection and service to mankind as the true religion. He emphasises the importance of values and ethics along with the effect of the social environment on these values. A leader hence, ought to behave morally and responsibly to resist the evils in the society. This ideology can certainly guide the young generation today. These examples have been cited in Chapter 2. Objective 2 has been achieved in this chapter.
3. The economic issues arising as a result of Globalization can be addresses through the ideals of *swadesi*, rural industries, justice and equality as given by Gandhiji. Indigenization and rural industries can help achieve self-sufficiency in Indian villages further leading to employment, happiness and equality among the masses. Gandhiji considered Indian villages as the epicentre of progress and designed several programmes for rural development which continue to find relevance even today. Chapter 3 presents conclusions on the same. Objective 3 has been achieved in this chapter.
4. Various national, social and economic issues have added to the stresses of human life. Every human being hence, desires mental peace along with the answers to these problems. Environmental damage also continues to be an issue of great importance. Gandhian principles can be put to use to strike a balance between man and his environment to prevent further destruction and achieve progress. This forms the fundamental basis of the research and Objective 4 has been achieved.
5. Globalization has resulted from Capitalism. Capitalism favours the rich and considers Profit as the sole objective. The economy arising from Capitalism leads to inequality and various other social concerns. Modern economy has also resulted in wars for economic dominance. The common man continues to be a victim and thereby, questions his position in this phenomenon. Gandhiji suggested the criteria to evaluate and ensure progress under this backdrop. As an example, Gandhiji suggested the use of Khadi and emphasised judicious use of water and electricity. These principles present great relevance today and the same has been thus, proved through research. Objective 5 has therefore, been achieved.

Recommendations:

1. Gandhian Principles can be effectively used to address various issues arising due to Globalisation. Inclusion of this subject in the curriculum can further answer various other concerns.
2. To further imbibe the Gandhian thoughts and philosophy into the minds of young generation considerable efforts through movies, poetry, quizzes are necessary to be initiated.
3. In order to address the issues of addiction and vices among the youth, organising various motivational programmes based on Gandhiji's ideologies ought to be organised more frequently.
4. The youth of today is responsible for the development and prosperity of the country. However, the young seem to be caught in a vicious circle of corruption, poverty, materialistic outlook, terrorism and so on. It is Gandhiji's ideology that can reform the youth. Hence, its inclusion to reinforce the values and ethics, in the curriculum of schools and colleges is recommended.
5. It is also recommended to incentivise the organising various National and international level conferences, talks and Research councils.

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