

GANDHI'S ROLE IN INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

***Dr.Ramesha.T. Assistant Professor of History, Govt. First Grade Collège, Vijayanagar, Bangalore.**

Abstract:

This paper is seeks to know the Gandhi's Role in India's Independence Movement. Mahatma Gandhi played a pivotal role in India's independence movement against British colonial rule. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance, also known as Satyagraha, inspired millions of people to join the struggle for freedom. Gandhi began his activism in South Africa, where he fought against the discriminatory treatment of Indians. His experiences there shaped his worldview and led him to develop his principles of nonviolence and civil disobedience. Upon his return to India, Gandhi became a prominent leader in the Indian National Congress, advocating for Indian independence from British rule. He organized numerous campaigns and movements, including the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Salt March, which saw widespread participation from people of all backgrounds.

Gandhi's tactics of nonviolent resistance were effective in mobilizing the masses and putting pressure on the British government to grant India its independence. His efforts culminated in the Indian Independence Act of 1947, which ended British colonial rule in India. Gandhi's legacy continues to inspire people around the world to fight for social justice and human rights through nonviolent means. His leadership and philosophy have been studied and emulated by countless activists, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Keywords: Gandhi, Role, India, Independence Movement etc.

INTRODUCTION:

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, also known as Mahatma Gandhi, is one of the most revered figures in modern history. Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, a coastal town in present-day Gujarat, India, Gandhi became a prominent political and spiritual leader who played a pivotal role in India's independence movement. Gandhi's early life was marked by privilege, as he was born into a wealthy family and received a British-style education. However, after completing his studies in law in England, Gandhi chose to return to India in 1915 and involve himself in the Indian nationalist movement. One of the defining features of Gandhi's philosophy was his belief in nonviolence or "Satyagraha." He believed that peaceful resistance was the most effective means of protest against injustice and oppression. Gandhi's approach to nonviolence was rooted in the principles of ahimsa or non-harm, and he sought to achieve change through persuasion rather than coercion.

Gandhi's activism in India's independence struggle began in earnest in the 1920s, as he led campaigns for civil disobedience against British colonial rule. He called for boycotts of British goods and encouraged the use of swadeshi or "self-reliance," promoting Indian-made products and industries. Gandhi's vision for India included a strong sense of national identity, cultural pride, and social equality. One of Gandhi's most significant acts of civil disobedience was the Salt March or Dandi March of 1930. Gandhi led a march to the Arabian Sea, where he and his followers produced salt in defiance of the British Salt Laws. The Salt March drew widespread attention to the Indian nationalist cause and inspired civil disobedience across the country.

Despite his commitment to nonviolence and social justice, Gandhi's efforts were not without opposition. He was imprisoned numerous times by the British authorities and faced criticism from some Indian nationalist leaders for his stance on certain issues, such as the caste system and the partition of India. Gandhi's legacy remains relevant today, as his philosophy of nonviolence and his commitment to social justice continue to inspire movements for peace and human rights around the world. His life and work serve as a reminder of the power of peaceful protest and the need for inclusiveness and equality in modern society.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

To know the Gandhi's Role in India's Independence Movement.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

This study is based on secondary sources of data such as articles, research paper, books, journals and websites.

GANDHI'S ROLE IN INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT:

Championing Non-Violence:

Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence or "Satyagraha" became the cornerstone of India's independence struggle. He believed in the power of nonviolent resistance, passive resistance, and civil disobedience as a means of protest against injustice and oppression. He called for the boycott of British goods, civil disobedience against oppressive laws, and peaceful protests to demand political and economic rights.

Championing Indian Identity and Unity:

Gandhi's vision for India included a strong sense of Indian identity, unity, and cultural pride. He encouraged the use of Indian languages and the revival of traditional crafts and industries, promoting swadeshi or "self-reliance." He also opposed the caste system, promoting social equality and inclusiveness.

Salt March:

One of the most significant events in India's independence struggle was the Salt March or Dandi March of 1930. Gandhi led a march to the Arabian Sea, where he and his followers produced salt in defiance of the British Salt Laws, which allowed the British to have a monopoly on the production and sale of salt. The Salt March drew widespread attention to the Indian nationalist cause and inspired civil disobedience across the country.

Quit India Movement:

In 1942, Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement, demanding an end to British colonial rule in India. The movement called for nonviolent civil disobedience and widespread protests, and led to the imprisonment of Gandhi and other leaders. However, the movement was successful in galvanizing public support for India's independence struggle.

Role in Partition:

Despite Gandhi's efforts to promote unity and inclusiveness, India was ultimately partitioned into two countries – India and Pakistan – in 1947, based on religious lines. Gandhi opposed partition, seeing it as a betrayal of his vision of a united, secular India. However, the partition led to widespread violence and displacement, and Gandhi worked to promote peace and reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims.

Assassination:

On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu nationalist who disagreed with Gandhi's policies towards Pakistan and Muslims. Gandhi's death was a severe blow to India's independence movement, but his legacy of nonviolence and social justice continues to inspire movements for peace and human rights around the world.

Mahatma Gandhi's role in India's independence struggle was instrumental in galvanizing public support for the nationalist cause and promoting nonviolent resistance as a means of protest. His vision for a united and inclusive India, based on principles of social justice and equality, remains relevant today. Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence has inspired civil rights movements and struggles for democracy and freedom around the world, making him a revered figure in modern history.

CONCLUSION:

Mahatma Gandhi's role in India's independence movement was of utmost importance. His philosophy of nonviolence, civil disobedience, and passive resistance galvanized public support and brought about a change in the mindset of the people. Gandhi's vision for India was one of unity, inclusiveness, and social justice, and he worked tirelessly to promote these values. Gandhi's Salt March and the Quit India Movement are examples of his commitment to the cause of Indian independence. His efforts led to the eventual independence of India from British colonial rule in 1947. Despite being opposed to partition,

Gandhi worked towards promoting peace and reconciliation between Hindus and Muslims during the tumultuous period of the partition.

Gandhi's assassination in 1948 was a great loss for India and the world. However, his legacy continues to inspire movements for peace, social justice, and human rights across the globe. His philosophy of nonviolence and his commitment to the welfare of the marginalized and oppressed remain relevant even today. Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to India's independence movement was monumental, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. His philosophy of nonviolence and his vision for a united and inclusive India serve as a reminder of the power of peaceful protest and the need for social justice in the world today.

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