



Mahatma Gandhi: Father Of The Nation

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ABSTRACT

The National Leader, Father of our Nation , Mahatma Gandhi was an embodiment of all noble qualities. His way of life is a message to all humanity and inspiration to whole mankind. He developed his knowledge and carer and struggled for India's freedom and development. Dedication to the welfare of the nation was the aim of his life. He was an cotemporary issue to discuss and immense source of writing fot writers of that era. Different discipline like history, sociology, politics, literature and philosophy have a great impact of his ideology and he was the central figure for writers of the novelist who characterized different characters in their writings who were depicting the change in the society duo to Gandhian freedom struggle. He taught the people of India to live in peace and harmony, to love all humans and to follow a disciplined life. The non-violence principle of Gandhiji changed the lives of many people and introduced a technique of perseverance, resistant to evils and untruth. He became the centre of all socio-political developments. The Satyagraha movement inspired the local people to protest against evils and misconduct. It created a strong bond of love and compassion which united the people irrespective of their caste , creed, colour, religion. Gandhiji was an idol of truth. He was a spokesperson, who opposed the inhuman behaviour like exploitation of slaves, discrimination of people , abasement of poor and weak. During his struggle, he evolved a novel technique or method of struggle which he called ' Satyagraha '. This method was latter used by the Indians during their freedom struggle. World peace can be established by following Truth and Non-violence. We can also solve the problems of unemployment and become prosperous through Grama- Swaraj. This is why Mahatma Gandhi's teachings are relevant even today. He met with success and became popular with the masses. He dominated the Freedom Movement from 1919 to 1947. That is why this period has been called the ' Gandhian Era'. He has been rightly called the ' Father of the Nation' and the creator of Morden India because India won freedom in 1947 under his guidance and leadership.

Keywords: *Freedom struggle Gandhian, Era, vaisnavas, Truth and non-violence, Satyagraha, Grama-Swaraj, Mahatma, Porbander, Green Pamphlet, Swadeshi,*

Introduction:

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2nd of October 1869 in Porbander, a sea coast town at Gujarat. His father and grand - father had become Prime Ministers in the Kathiawar district. They were traditional vaisnavas. His mother was a saintly woman, who had a strong influence on him. Right from his childhood he loved truth and non-violence. He was an exemplary student. He passed his matriculation examination in 1887 and he persued his higher education in the Samaldas College at Bhavangar on the advice of one of his best friend, he sailed for England to qualify himself for the bar. He qualified for bar the in 1891, at the age of twenty two and sailed back to home. He started his practice in Mumbai, but with little success. Seeing no promise for a career in India , he accepted as a legal counsel in South Africa. He lived there for a period of twenty one years. Gandhi first

suffered severe humiliation because of colour prejudice in South Africa. His political feelings were awakened. He founded the Natal Indian Congress and become its first secretary. He considered his legal work as secondary to the public service. In 1891, he gained international fame with the famous "Green Pamphlet" "the grievances of the British Indians in South Africa. The essence of greatness of Mahatma Gandhi does not lie in his achievements in social, economic and political field for the emancipation of his countrymen in South Africa or for the liberation of India from the British rule but in attaining a high degree of transformation in himself and in the lives of his followers. For his dedication and sacrifice, he became a heritage of India. Gandhi looked upon his life as a series of experiments with trust and concluded that "life consists in nothing but those experiments". His life proved that human transformation is possible through a "Life process of experimentation in day-to-day activity".

He went to England to study law. After completing studies, he went to South Africa as a lawyer. He was shocked by the treatment given to the Indians in South Africa by the white rulers. Gandhiji fought for the unjust laws boldly but non-violently. He was several times mercilessly beaten and arrested but he remained firm. At last, the Government of the South Africa had to accept several of his demands. It was a great political success of Gandhiji. It developed in him self-confidence to lead an agitation in a non-violent manner through his weapon of *Satyagraha*. In 1915, Gandhiji came back to India and joined the struggle for freedom and he led all the movements successfully. Truth and Non-violence were the strange weapons with which he fought the British. Unique strategies were adopted by him in the freedom struggle. Passive resistance, boycott of all foreign goods and ignoring illegitimate laws helped him in pushing the British to the wall. Gandhiji introduced new ideals in politics and adopted new methods to give new direction to the National Movement to achieve freedom for the country through his ideals, systems and reformation activities are -Religious Ideals, Social Ideals, An Ideal State, The Ideal of Trusteeship, His Doctrine of Swadeshi, His Doctrine of Non-Violence, Doctrine of *Satyagraha* and Hindu-Muslim Unity. Introduction of all the above new methods of Gandhiji achieved freedom from the British rule. and his restless efforts ultimately made the Mother Land Free in 1947.

The political, economic, educational and other ideas of Gandhiji are part of a whole, integrated philosophy of life. He was essentially a man of action, and it was through the adventure of living his 'experiments' with truth, that he came to formulate ideas that are strewn over thousands of pages of writers, speeches and correspondence. Moreover, his greater experiments were yet to be made. Any way, he was a versatile philosopher-cum-statesman. Some of his prominent philosophical doctrines are his concept of God, Truth, Doctrines Morality, Non-violence, *Satyagraha*, Labour Economic, Equality, Citizenship, Brotherhood of man etc. Above all he was a great social reformer. He led a restless war against social evils like untouchability and down-trodden. Universal brotherhood was his cherished dream. As an educationist, Gandhi has synthesised three important philosophies, idealism, Naturalism and Pragmatism and on the basis of such a basic ground, he gives the meaning of Education. In his words, "By education, I mean an all round drawing out of the best in the child and man- body, mind and spirit. Literacy, according to him, neither the end of education nor even the beginning. Gandhiji said that education is dynamic side of the philosophy of life.

The 'Mahatma' as he was named by Tagore, played a dominant role in the freedom struggle. The unique methods he used and the new spirit he infused in the messages gave the national movement a powerful trust. In truth and non-violence, we have a practical universal creed that can unite the whole world in a bond of love and peace. Gandhiji not only preached truth and non-violence, but he practised them. That is why he is called Mahatma (Great Soul). His golden words are "Live as if you were to die tomorrow; learn as if you were to live forever." His moral courage was of the highest order. Simplicity was the mark of his life. Perhaps there is no leader who made so great a contribution as Mahatma Gandhi to the achievement of Independence for India. dominated scene of Indian politics and the Freedom Movement from 1919 to 1947. He left no stone unturned in the fight for India's Freedom. He showed new paths to the Indian politics. He also adopted novel means to fight this war of freedom, and when in jail, he gave directions from there. He was always ready to make any sacrifice for his country. such conditions forced the Britishers to leave India in their own interest. at first they announced their resolve to leave India by June.1948 but subsequently, they left on August 15, 1947 he made the national struggle vigorous, dynamic and more powerful and subsequently they left on August 15, 1947. It is an irony that

such a noble soul fell to the bullets of a fanatic, within six months of the Nation had obtained Independence, on 30th January 1948.

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