



Propagation of Gandhian ideals through AdhyaynaKendras

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Abstract

This paper looks at the implications behind the initiatives of the government to establish Gandhi study centers in degree colleges. The ideals & principles of Mahatma Gandhi have become very much applicable these days. The students in higher education should know the tenets of Gandhian concepts of education, ahimsa, Satyagraha, Sarvodaya, non-violence etc. There have been several academic forums to deliberate on the Conceptualizations of Gandhi but government is taking bold steps to introduce Gandhian ideals to students of higher education. This paper analyses the government steps towards making these ideals of Gandhi reach out to students of today so that they can reflect themselves as the best citizens for tomorrow.

Key words: Mahatma Gandhi, Government initiatives, study centers, youth issues, social transformation

Introduction:

These days higher education has become marks card oriented pattern of study instead of inculcating the standards of simplicity, sacrifice, ethical character & personality building. Mahatma Gandhi had several visualizations of making the youth of the country realize the hardships their fore fathers had put for earning freedom. He wanted the youth of this country to act as ambassadors of great Indian culture. He was a futurist, who could comprehend the problems of youth such as good education, unemployment, befitting jobs etc. Government is working towards propagation of the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi at higher education level. There was a move by the government of Karnataka to set up GAK (*Gandhi adhyanakendra*) in all degree colleges with following objectives.

- To organize lectures, seminars, symposia, workshops and training programmes on Gandhism and its contemporary relevance.
- To sponsor and publish research studies on Gandhism and its contemporary relevance.
- To bring out suitable publications to promote and propagate Gandhian values.
- To celebrate the birth and death anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi in meaningful ways.
- To network with like-minded organizations in propagating Gandhian values.
- Documentation, Preservation, Publication and Propagation of Mahatma Gandhi particularly in the regional language writings and teachings and establishment of study



centers and libraries for such purposes.

- Organizing programmes to bring about attitudinal changes/development through practical applications of Gandhian philosophy and values.
- Promoting initiatives to create awareness about the life and message of Gandhi through educational media like exhibition, films, Gandhian, posters, radio docu- drama etc.
- Developing capacities of children and youth for imbibing Gandhian values and Gandhian concept of work.

The Implications

Mahatma Gandhi was a visionary he could dream of a "Ramarajya" where all the people could have equal share towards societal living. He propagated simple living & high thinking. The very essence of his strength came from his belief in truth which was essence of different religions & faiths without barriers of caste class creed he believed only in serving humanity

Most of the countries across the world are facing internal & external crises due to an unprecedented change in social political economic & cultural areas the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi has become more imperative. People have become very selfish & animosity is increasing each state is undergoing problems with the other neighboring state. Indian facing problems of:

1. Terrorism
2. Communalism

3. Separatist tendencies
4. Naxalism
5. Maoist terrorism
6. Regionalism
7. Casteism
8. Crime

Mahatma Gandhi's life has proven that self strength is stronger than physical strength. His Gentleness in spirit Simplicity Minimal dress code Virtuous nature supported the Indian masses to follow him. His agility & path of passive resistance helped independent India to grow as great democratic country. Even though independent India did not follow the principles of mahatma.

Gandhian ideals did help young India in its formative years of growth as a super power. Mahatma Gandhi's values have become more relevant today because non violence tolerance respect to other religions passive resistance hold good otherwise the world would perish. Mahatma Gandhi knew that what India needed should come from sacrifice. He wanted young Indian to know the value of freedom. The respect & tolerance is all needed today all types if regional racial& religious conflicts have to become the cause of the day. People have become so impatient all problems are solved through violence hence Gandhi's ideas of passive resistance have become more imperative today.

Mahatma Gandhi advocacy of non violence is closely connected with his attitude towards means & ends. He firmly believed that violent methods for achieving a desired goal would result



inevitably in an intensification of further violence. Mahatma Gandhi said the end achieved would always be contaminated by the method used. His philosophy of inclusive growth was fundamental because building rural resurgent India was imperative. He believed in production by masses rather than mass production these days governments have been emphasizing on small scale & handicraft industries in the name of rural empowerment. But Mahatma Gandhi had already envisaged this through his spinning wheel. (Gandhi, M.K. "Some Rules of Satyagraha" Young India (Navajivan) 23 February 1930 (The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi vol. 48, p. 340)

Mahatma Gandhi also said about the seven social sins

1. Politics without principles
2. Wealth without work
3. Pleasure without conscience
4. Knowledge without character
5. Science without humanity
6. Commerce without morality
7. Worship without sacrifice

Mahatma Gandhi inspires an vision of politics & resistance at a time when separatism & violence has reached the peak because his ideals are helpful to youth in social transformation

1. It opens a world of possibilities
2. It encourages to show individuality
3. It gives us inner strength
4. It focuses on positive ideas

Gandhian Principles & their relevance today

1. Mahatma Gandhi vision of self reliant India holds good now .world which is marching towards mass destruction needs Gandhian path of ahimsa
2. Mahatma Gandhi wanted young Indians to reflect the culture of the country & show unity solidarity & assimilation
3. Mahatma Gandhi opened up the question of the need or a humane global civilization which would tackle the needs of the needy people ,
4. Mahatma Gandhi has inspired hundreds of youth movements
5. Mahatma Gandhi highlighting on the basic unity of the human races across world is highly relevant (PreetiGharse / Mr. Santosh Sharma Gandhi's Views on Youth as an Agent for Social Transformation Gandhi's Views.sarvodaya.org.in.)
6. Mahatma Gandhi stress on internal spirituality meant that people always should live a life of chastity
7. Mahatma Gandhi condemned materialism & consumerism. It was because he had foreseen the impending disastrous outcome of western civilization. This western materialistic incepted progress was based on consumerism. Hence he advocated an alternative life style which was minimalist, austere & equitable.(PreetiGharse / Mr. Santosh Sharma Gandhi's Views on Youth as an Agent for Social



- Transformation Gandhi's Views.sarvodaya.org.in.)
8. Mahatma Gandhi experiments with living with nature were manifested in the Phoenix Ashram and Tolstoy farm ventures in early 1990s in South Africa. Mahatma Gandhi call for honoring the nature's resources holds good in these days of global environmental crisis. (Rama Dukle- Youth for Social Transformation - Gandhi's Views. Sarvodaya.org.in.)
 9. Tolerance patience self perseverance ideals of Gandhi is what is needed for today's youth because youth today are into rudeness, discourtesy, impoliteness & bad manners.
 10. The values of truth, non violence, simplicity, minimalism, etc should be made known to the youth who are susceptible to violence.
 11. His insistence on celibacy & Brahmacharya hold good because today's youth are becoming easy targets of dreadful habits such as addiction, alcoholism, vulgarity etc. Preeti Gharse / Mr. Santosh Sharma Gandhi's Views on Youth as an Agent for Social Transformation Gandhi's Views.sarvodaya.org.in.
 12. Gandhi's principles become relevant today because India is undergoing the garbage crisis. Mahatma's insistence on self cleanliness holds good today more than ever. (Rama Dukle- Youth for Social Transformation - Gandhi's Views. Sarvodaya.org.in.)

Conclusion:

Thus through all these steps Gandhian principles would be made known to

today's youth. India as a country of great heritage has a bright future which lies in the hands of today's youth. The ideals of Gandhi have been popular across the world but in India they have been almost forgotten. But the initiatives of the government have been affirmative in reintroducing Gandhian principles in higher educational institutions. By projecting an integrated view of life that Mahatma Gandhi lived and worked to make a lasting impact on the public. His programmes and activities were based on oneness of human life, his open-minded approach to the problem of uniting all the forces and his way of tackling the divisive forces are to be effectively communicated so that they will generate unity and integrity in our country.

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