



Gandhiji-Values and Life Skills forever

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Abstract: *The person without any introduction in mankind of the world, is " Mahatma Gandhi". Gandhiji was a man of strong character. Mahatma Gandhi was the great Indian figure who enlightened the world with the principles of truth and non-violence. Now a day's everyone talks a lot on Values and Life Skills, these days fall in morality and chaos. His secret weapon being "Values and Life Skills" along with "Truth and Nonviolence".*

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Introduction

Now a day's everyone talks a lot on Values and Life Skills, these days fall in morality and chaos. People from all walks of life complain that man has become excessively self Centred. By acquiring the lessons emerged from the experiences of great people like Mahatma Gandhi-"Values and Life skills" lead People for Valuable life, for better society . Gandhiji believed values made an internal commitment to fight against temptations and to resist weaknesses. Values -the key to meaningful life. Skills are the abilities to solve the tasks within minimum time and energy. Life skills are usually associated with managing and living a better quality of life . Gandhiji believed that values lies within the life skills. Gandhi is an inspiration for many and a claimant of values and life skills. The life of Mahatma Gandhi is full of lessons that still inspire people across the world. Gandhi always kept his inner conscience above everything. We, too, should follow a moral path to meet our dreams and reach our destination in our life. If our own values have difference then we will not be able to reach the level of harmony. Mahatma Gandhi concluded that only when our thoughts, actions and words are balanced and connected to each

other, then we can achieve true harmony. while analysing the views of Mahatma Gandhi, we can examine his views under main heads : Values ,Morals, Integrity, Ethics and Life Skills.

In earlier days people learnt Values and Life Skills by Parents, Teachers, Spiritual Trainers . In earlier days joint families were very much existed in the society. So there by understanding each other and expressing affectionately have become quality among the people. Now a days the families are becoming nuclear. The history of mankind is replete with achievers who achieved spectacular success in life is the great person "Mahatma Gandhi". His secret weapon being "values and Life Skills along with the Truth and Nonviolence".

Learn to love without condition. Talk without bad intention. Give without any reason , And most of all care for people without any expectation. Values are personal guidelines that are tied to the head ,heart and hands before one chooses them. Morals are standards of behaviour , they are principles of right and wrong which govern a person. Integrity is defined as the unity of thought and open mindedness based on



moral values. Ethics are the morals values and integrity of mankind have charity towards men and all animals.

The key to meaningful Life of Gandhiji

A value is defined as a principle that promotes well-being or prevents harm.” values-The key to meaningful life. We all want our life to have some meaning. Some direction , some self-evolved authority for guidance . Values give us all this. Assimilating the lessons emerging from the experiences of great people like mahatma Gandhi-"Truth and Nonviolence", Gautama Buddha- kind & compassion ,will enrich our lives and help us to create a more wholesome value system capable of withstanding new pressures , facing new challenges and making every one of us a better person. Character-The word character usually refers to some one's sexual morality. But if you believe in values ,it means that you have made an internal commitment to fight against temptations and to resist your weaknesses. This is strength of character.

Many people talk a lot on values but they do not practise them. This is hypocrisy. Values mean care ,to have a balance of give and take, to maintain respect to others feelings and their faiths. Living in harmony with others means to live in balance. Balance is the key concept in working out how to apply and integrate values into the real life. One of the distinguishing characteristics of establishing good balance is being pliable when it is matter of taste , and being firm when it is matter of Principle. The great personality Gandhi followed and proved the result of meaningful life. Values province an in-built standard of reference and judgment for our actions .Thus they are integrally tied to choice and action.

ex: When Mohandas Karmchand Gandhiji was in his school days, when the inspection was going on , Gandhiji did not know the spelling of a word , though the teacher signalled to copy from the other child, Gandhiji did not. Here he had the choice of following his value in his action.

Principles of right and wrong: “Always do what is right. It will gratify half of mankind and astound the other.” — **Mark Twain**

Morals are the welfare principles enunciated by the wise people like Gandhiji , based on his experience and wisdom .They were edited, changed or modified or evolved to suit the geography of the region, rulers , and in accordance with development of knowledge in science and technology and with time . Morality is concerned with principles and practices of morals such as: (a) What ought or ought not to be done in a given situation? (b) What is right or wrong about the handling of a situation? and(c) What is good or bad about the people, policies, and ideals involved?

Gandhi had two major moral values. First, he believed that all people should be equal to one another and should live together in peace. Second, he believed that violence was not the correct way to bring about justice in the world. The idea of universal human "brotherhood" is certainly a moral value .The way we treat other people is a major reflection of our morality. For example, choosing to treat people of other races or religions as our inferiors is certainly something that shows that we are not really good people.

Gandhi built his life's work around moral values. He felt that it was important to recognize the humanity of all people. He felt that it was important



to fight against injustice but to always do so in a way (non-violence) that protected everyone's human dignity.

Leadership needs integrity

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way" - John C. Maxwell

Integrity is defined as the unity of thought, word and deed /honesty and open mindedness. It includes the capacity to communicate the factual information so that others can make well-informed decisions. It yields the person's 'peace of mind', and hence adds strength and consistency in character, decisions, and actions. This paves way to one's success. It is one of the self-direction virtues. It enthuse people not only to execute a job well but to achieve excellence in performance. It helps them to own the responsibility and earn self-respect and recognition by doing the job. Moral integrity is defined as a virtue, which reflects a consistency of one's attitudes, emotions, and conduct in relation to justified moral values. Integrity comes from a congruence between thoughts, feelings, words, and actions-when all that you are and do spring from your core values. Gandhi was one of the greatest examples of integrity we have seen in modern times, and the many moving stories about his life demonstrate the power of teaching this character trait by example. A mother once brought her child to him, asking him to tell the young boy not to eat sugar, because it was not good for his diet or his developing teeth. Gandhi replied, "I cannot tell him that. But you may bring him back in a month." The mother was angry as Gandhi moved on, brushing her aside. She had travelled some distance, and had expected the mighty leader to support her parenting.

She had little recourse, so she left for her home. One month later she returned, not knowing what to expect. The great Gandhi took the small child's hands into his own, knelt before him, and tenderly communicated, "Do not eat sugar, my child. It is not good for you." Then he embraced him and returned the boy to his mother. The mother, grateful but perplexed, queried, "Why didn't you say that a month ago?" "Well," said Gandhi, "a month ago, I was still eating sugar." What a power in example! This rare kind of integrity has great power. Imagine what the world would be like if all present day leaders of nations had that kind of integrity.

Gandhiji knows ethics on public life

"If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our risk" Martin Luther King, JR.

Ethics is the word that refers to morals, values, and beliefs of the individual, family or the society. The word has several meanings. Basically it is an activity and process of inquiry. Secondly, it is different from non-moral problems, when dealing with issues and controversies. Thirdly, ethics refers to a particular set of beliefs, attitudes, and habits of individuals or family or groups concerned with morals. Fourth, it is used to mean 'morally correct'. The study on ethics helps to know the people's beliefs, values, and morals, learn the good and bad of them, and practice them to maximize their well-being and happiness. It involves the inquiry on the existing situations, form judgments and resolve the issues. In addition, ethics tells us how to live, to respond to issues, through the



duties, rights, responsibilities, and obligations. In religion, similar principles are included, but the reasoning on procedures is limited. The principles and practices of religions have varied from time to time (history), region (geography, climatic conditions), religion, society, language, caste and creed. But ethics has grown to a large extent beyond the barriers listed above. In ethics, the focus is to study and apply the principles and practices, universally.

Gandhi always believed that the cultivation of wealth should be done keeping in mind the morals and ethics to be practised by people on their path to economic growth. He believed that wealth without ethics and morals made a human being more poor than the poorest of man who never neglected his moral growth in his pursuit of wealth. It is an important objective of every enlightened national government to adopt and execute a development model, strategy, or method, suited to improving the quality of its people's life based ethics . The government of a developed nation aims at making the quality still better, even though as it is, it may be quite satisfactory. An underdevelopment in some direction, a right method of development. It may be that development in some direction, say, alleviation of poverty, illiteracy, or bad health conditions, etc. for a sizable section of its people, is the crying need of the hour and the available resources are very meagre. It cannot then afford to make one experiment after another and fail several times before changing to be blessed with a model of development suited for its situation.

An individual's quality of life is determined by a number of factors. His economy is very important but not

sufficient to crown it with all that is desirable. Some of the other necessary factors are his attitude towards the way he spends it, his ability to fulfill his needs, his capability to do well the job he is assigned to do, his education, his reading habits, his sense of self-respect and self-dignity, his dealings with the other members of his family and society, the freedom he has to function as a viable member of his society, etc. It is important to note that in all this it is necessary that he has, or is able to acquire, the resources he needs to fulfill the basic, desirable, needs of his own and of other members of his family in a manner which is consistent with his self-respect and self-dignity. Nobody has emphasized, and more sincerely, the need for ameliorating the economic condition of the Indian poor than Gandhi .

Gandhiji was not only a freedom fighter who got freedom for us but he was also great spiritual leader having definitive idea about philosophy of life and spiritual life. He could relate these aspects in day today life and derive lessons for man on ethics and moral values in all walks of life for all individuals. According to Gandhi the entire universe is based upon moral laws and Ethics , whose organizer is God. One of the most important belief and conduct which Gandhiji practiced was in relation to means and end . Essentially Ethics and values of Gandhiji advocate the development of sublime qualities in life that highlight Gandhiji's way of life .Possibly they are more appropriate for persons in power serving a public cause.

Truth and Nonviolence-Mahatma Gandhi

"I believe that Gandhiji's views were the most enlightened of all the political men in our time. We should strive to do



things in his spirit; not to use violence in fighting for our cause ,but by non-participation in anything you believe is evil" - Albert Einstein

Truth and Nonviolence are generally considered to be the two major characteristics of humankind. The persons who followed truth and nonviolence can get a miraculous achievement in their lives . Gandhi is one of the greatest personality who followed truth and nonviolence . It is possible to pursue one without the other. It is thus possible to pursue truth without being nonviolent. It is possible to pursue truth without being nonviolent, it is also possible to pursue nonviolence without pursuing truth. It is clear if we take the world "truth" to denote the "right" thing to do in a morally charged situation. It is thus possible to pursue both truth without regard to nonviolence, and nonviolence without regard to truth. Importance of Gandhiji for sociopolitical order today is Gandhiji inspires us to rethink ourselves and to be showing the qualities that deserve the specified regard of new concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour on society.

Gandhiji ideology on Truth and Non-violence

The idea of truth and non-violence is at the core Mahatma Gandhi's political thought. Non-violence or 'ahimsa' was not his inborn behaviour .He simply states: "In the journey searching for truth I find ahimsa. I have only retrieved it, never discovered a new." Actually truth and ahimsa are closely integrated with his ideology of life. He used to believe that ahimsa lies within the truth and similarly truth is in ahimsa. Once he thought that God is

truth but later he observed that truth is God.

Meaning: Truth and Non-violence is controlling one's thoughts and temper, even under tiring circumstances. Truth and Non-violence is the weapon of the strong. How interesting is it that a common man, probably a person next door, who lived, and died, more than 60 years ago continues to influence our lives even today. He considered Truth and Non-violence to be a very powerful active force. Thus, in Gandhi's concept of non-violence there was no place for timidity .

Evaluation:In this way, ahimsa is a quality of Atma, which consists of the further qualities of love, generosity, fearlessness or in its holistic sense God itself. It does not mean not to fight against injustice and cruelty, but it means all these have to be avoided by conducive and truthful means. And it would be possible if the follower of ahimsa has proper control over his action and thought. It means, the devotee of ahimsa has to be tolerant and suffering-being. Though Mahatma Gandhi accorded the principle of 'truth and non-violence' a pivotal position in all his activities all through his life, he realised that the common people of India and even the majority of the contemporary Congress leaders had not accepted non-violence as a 'creed'. In the opinion of the followers of Gandhi, the relevance of the Gandhian concept of truth and non-violence cannot be ignored or denied at all.

Conclusion

Gandhi took non-violence to a whole new level. He was strongly against violence even if it was for self-defense. Though he was born in rich family ,he left all of his possessions. He was a



person with self-confidence. He had distinctive qualities. He followed the laws of truth, nonviolence and equity. He never expected the Powers. He introduced the Ideal policies like Swachabharath, JanmaBoomi, Sramdhanam, Education policy for better Society. If we follow Gandhiji values and life skills then the Society automatically changes in better way.

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*Retrieved 31 August 2013.*Quote: "... his niece Manu, who, like others called this immortal Gandhi 'Bapu,' meaning not 'father,' but the familiar, 'daddy.'" (p. 210)