

“RELEVANCE OF GANDHI IN CONTEMPORARY WORLD”

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GANDHI.....a single word that echoed the dreams of millions of people ...a single entity who bore the burden of a whole nation.....an idea that reincarnates everytime it's assassinated.....an intangible realitya beacon of hope to millions of Indian who were bowed under the weight of years of slavery.....a person who was in the vanguard of India's freedom struggle.....an enigma that still fails not to awe us.....he was the man “*who could talk with crowds and still keep his virtue.....or walk with kings and not lose the common touch*”.

Gandhian philosophy has always been a topic of discussion especially in this contemporary world where his ideas appear redundant amidst the pragmatism and materialism which prevails....still to discard the relevance of his thought is akin to removing the element of humanity from man as his philosophies like “*satya*” and “*ahimsa*” emanate basic human principles of love, compassion and tolerance.

In this fast globalizing world where capitalism is gradually becoming the word of the day, Gandhi's concept of decentralization of means and resources and his model of economic development which talked of developing villages as an independent production and administrative unit has become more relevant in order to save us from various economic, social, ethical and emotional hazards which are the consequence of this large scale industrialization and have become silent killers of the human race.

Gandhi too talked of globalization but in a positive manner. His uniqueness did not lie in the fact that he was extraordinary but in his being extraordinarily ordinary and this simplicity of his was reflected in his thoughts too. His idea of swadeshi which talks of “production for neighbors” if applied to the world at large with his theory of “*antyodaya*” or “*the last man*” which speaks of providing every individual with the basic necessities can negate the effects of globalization by ensuring everyone fruits of developmental process.

His philosophy of “*satyagrah*” which according to him meant “*the force which is born of truth or violence*” is required more in the contemporary world scenario where accumulation of nuclear weapon has become the means to attain supremacy. Despite the efforts of various peace keeping force the threat of nuclear war persists in the sub consciousness of world and the only method which has the potential to remove this “ever lingering fear” is satyagrah.

Its true that a vast difference has come in the approach and mindset of Indians in these 60 years of independence, thus its imperative that people will look askance at individuals who try to propogate Gandhian principle but despite this it is impossible to deny his relevancethe only change that can be made is to serve the same cuisine on a different platterto remove the spiritual veil which covered it and modify his philosophy so that it appeals to the scientific mind of todays generation.

In Gandhi's words "*truth and untruth often co exist, good and evil are often found together*"....however when two lies wage a war against each other it's the bigger lie that wins...the greater violence that takes away the booty.....the more intense hatred that becomes the victorbut ultimately its untruth that prevails, violence that persists and hatred that is glorified.....the vedantic philosophy of "*asto ma sadgamay*" subjugates to the engulfing darkness. It's here when Gandhi's

Weapon of "*satya*", "*ahimsa*" and "*compassion*" come into play and helps in restoring the light to the darkening world.
