



Environmental Ethics in Mind of Mahatma Gandhi

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Abstract

The present study emphasized on Gandhi's view on natural wealth and its conservation. The Gandhi philosophy represents the importance of standard of living of man which had lead to the development of high consumerism and in manufacturing of ravage. This has been related to direct performance on the man and environment association.

Key words: Gandhi, Man, Environment and Philosophy.

INTRODUCTION:

Our Planet, Earth has a cosmic route and biological diversity. So Human-beings must be taught to be careful and make use of the earth's natural resources (Renewable and Non-renewable) ethically. As we are the trustees of Mother Earth (our planet), we must be aware of restraint and humbleness worth of the nature which cannot be expressed in simple economic term. Material humanity cannot establish the happiness but it can only be achieved when material and spiritual worlds are related and co-ordinates. It is the task of the humankind to concern and sustain our planet while obtaining required resources in retort.

Sustainable progress requires a deep indulgent in the natural world and its role of humankind which leads to combined development. Science, technology and Evolution plays an essential role in today's world. As we have seen due to over exploitation of natural stuff for the determination of progress which leads serious environmental threat.

From Mahatma Gandhi's statement, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not any man's greed", illustrate his anxiety for nature and environment. This statement depicts his anxiety for nature and environment The Sustainable progress for world is the best example given by Gandhi without presenting requirements which had been desired for the future generation.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Gandhi's views on Man-Nature relationship.
- His views on Urbanisation.
- The approach of Environmental conservation through his behaviour.
- All existent individual are equivalent in the mind of Mahatma Gandhi.



GANDHI ON ENVIRONMENT:

Before knowing the views of Gandhi, it is necessary to understand the Gandhi's thought on Environmental ethics. As man's destruction nature leads global environment at its distressing level. The destructive measures adapted by man, taken amply from nature which had deliberated by Gandhi's viewpoint and principles.

From his speeches, writings and messages, he gave us plenty of opportunities to conquer the calamity.

MAN –NATURE RELATIONSHIP:

For Gandhi, Man's body is considered as a temple of God. Anyone who fouls the air that is to enter that temple desecrates it. His theory and philosophy of life, society and politics were lead in harmony among Man-Nature relationship with each other. The salience and senility of environment for human survival which makes him an environmentalist for his astonishment and awareness He is not an environmentalist who will analyses the causes to recommend measures against environmental pollutions and safeguards against all kinds of environmental hazards. He belongs to the school which believed in the treatment rather than healing. The life style in which nobody would fall sick, such life style was promoted by Gandhi, which had already stated by Plato in his statement related to the ecological aspect of life. The kind of life, culture and community had stated by him which would never lead to the environmental obstacles.

Gandhi accompanies his life with the surroundings with himself as well as with others which made him more much than his negations either in his thoughts and action. He was considered as a true activist in protesting against deforestation or dams or nuclear reactors through his theory on nature and environment.

He had a very powerful sense of harmony among all the living creatures instead of human beings alone. He felt that human should live in unity with their surroundings and developed a bond between the rests of animate world.

Gandhi was not fascinated with wildlife or rainforest. We do not see him visiting places of interest like naturalists. But according to him he believes that nature should take its own policy to overcome it. He did not try to conserve resources for the future generation but he looked it in a sacred and human beings living in harmony with other living creatures. Gandhi prohibited the people in storing medicines against poisonous bites and possibility of co-existence with the non-human world. He showed his liking towards ecological aspect by devoting his life in ashram surroundings. From all these fact it has been found out that he is a true ecologist.

Gandhi emphasized the artisan to produced goods and tools in a large mass in the form of spinning of clothes with Charkha as well as increased agricultural economy that made the rural people free from depending on machine made goods on a large scale.



SATYAGRAHA AND AHIMSA:

Gandhi escorts his life with a consistency with his surroundings, oneself as well as with others. He lead no negations either in his thinking and action, he did much more than this that he was not an revolutionaries to protest in the form of supporter in concept of nature and environment. This concept of environmental ethics was similar to that of Sustainable development in the form of Sarvodayya. What we today called eco-friendly measures which live in harmony with nature, had already preached and practiced by him in the past.

Satyagraha was used as the correspondent of war in India by Environment movements such as Chipko movement, formed to protest against deforestation which was effective Satyagraha conducted by Gandhi in the form of padayatras to save nature.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:

In the modern sense, Gandhi was not considered as an environmentalist as he did not build a green philosophy nor compose a nature poem as he is often recited as a follower of environmental conservation. The well-known environmentalist Ramchandra Guha assent Gandhi has an earlier environmentalist though environment concerns were minimum at the Gandhi's time due to as his views on nature were scattered throughout his writings. His idea about modern environmentalism is related to Satyagraha which is based on truth, non-violence, simple, life style and development in the form of text that "Nature has enough to satisfy anybody's greed" but one must not destroy it by utilising for itself.

Man's body is made up of five elements and among which air is considered as an important for health purpose of human body. Gandhi appealed for vegetarians as he believes in a simple and satvik diet. His love and non-violence towards other living beings has been interpreted by his experiments with nature cure treatment and self-discipline from meat -eating. The reduction of resources has been tremendously increased along with the lethal toxicant in air, water and soil. He teach what he practised in his life, which leads to the pollution and hazardless to the human being.

URBANIZATION:

Gandhi expressed his views regarding the Urbanization that it is slow process but sure it will take death of his villages and villagers. It can never support 90 percent of India's population, which is living in villages in more number. Gandhi firmly believed that India lives in its villages. He felt that youth must not be attracted by glamour of modern civilization but to maintain village culture and its civilization. He assigned the youth not to use machinery and industrialization for their livelihood as according to him, village life is a goal of rural civilization as India is considered as a recipient of it. Therefore, the intentions of the youth may be ill founded if they were 'to uproot it and substitute for it an urban civilization' (Young India, 7-11-1929).

According to Gandhi, the concept of removing handicrafts or cottage industries from small villages would stop making use of the skilled opportunity by the villagers and then they have to depend on the cattle on the field which would not lead to their support for the mind or the body.



CONCLUSION:

From the above Gandhi's thought it is seen that Environment plays an important contribution in building up the nation and its youth, therefore it is essential to build up a green future, where there is no place for human greed. Gandhi was considered as the father of environment movement in India by many environmentalists around the world for his thoughts action and contribution towards the environment.

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