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H.S. ENGLISH UPANYASAM

(1) CONTENTS :- 60

## HOW FAR GANDHISM INFLUENCE THE YOUNGER GENERATION ?

### CONTENTS :

- Introduction
- A peep into the past
- Vultures that devour our culture
- Society - Theatres of violence
- Gandhian principles in 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Let us arise, awake and stop not till our goal is reached!

### Introduction

"Jesus Christ taught to love your enemies... Gandhiji proved that it is practical." - MARTIN LUTHER KING

India is the land of valiance and chivalry. Modern India represents world's largest democracy with a seamless picture of unity in diversity. India is a unique mosaic of cultures opined Jawaharlal Nehru. She has a promising future and a glorious past. But a present that is made up of unending conflicts and toils in the labyrinths. The contemporary scenario is such that we have a generation who provides mere lip services to Gandhian principles. The hourglass has been inverted and reinverted, yet we couldn't find a drastic change that took India to the apex of progress. It is a stinging and dimming reality that our India is about to fall into

The abyss of darkness. But when the revival is bleak, a glimmer of hope will appear. That glimmer is entrusted in the hands of youth. The young breed with values, zeal and enthusiasm will rule the world and will transform the world at large.

### A peep into the past

Lord Macaulay once addressed in the British Parliament that "I have travelled across the lengths and breadths of India. But I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a Thief. ~~People~~ Such wealth I have seen there. People of such moral values and caliber, that I do not think, we would ever conquer this nation, unless we break her very

backbone." It is a crystal clear fact that India had a glorious past. The pages of her history was enriched with values. The path of non-violence that helped us munch the flavour of freedom is deserted in this modern era. Gandhian principle became archaic and out dated in modernised world. Modernity took away our modesty. The social elements became social ailments and started to rip off the social fabric. If such a situation prevails, then it will lead to apocalypse. In the hum drum of the world, we lost our virtues. The race behind money made us blind. The youthful energies are not channelized for good cause and it is going out of track.

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We must not wish for development by stabbing our culture and principles of great leaders.

### Vultures that devour our culture

It is true that India has shown her abilities in all realms. But ironically these achievements are accompanied by a state of crimes and a parade of news that paints the picture dull. Society has become the theatres of violence. The delinquency is upsurging in our nation. We are radiating from our culture. Man became short sighted that he started to deteriorate nature too. The kakistocracy came into existence when politics became the shelter for corrupt people. We cannot dream of India being a developed nation

at this context because, we are having a lopsided development. Progress remains localised while a big strata still remains in dark. We claim from rooftops that women of our country is enjoying safety. But the number of kidnaps, rapes and sexual assaults increases day by day and even toddler become the prey for cruel crimes committed by salacious men. The patriarchal society still remains in our country. Bloodshed occurs in name of religion and Terrorism and frauds seems to be appearing and disappearing more often. These darker aspects seems to eclipse the bright positives of our motherland. None of our great freedom fighters dreamed of such a country.

Gandhiji never wanted India to fall prey to the evils. But today the evils are eating the roots of our country.

Gandhian principles in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Earth provides everything for  
one's need, but nothing for  
one's greed." - MAHATMA GANDHI

Gandhiji wanted a sustainable development in our country. The deep ecology perspective and green protocol that was introduced in our country insist her citizen to lead a life with nature without harming environment. But the atrocities towards nature is sky rocketing. We are having a warming and warming scenario. Humans are at the verge of extinction and are about to die.

"Religion is a big tree with many branches. As branches you may say there are many religions. But as a tree religion is one" opined Gandhiji.

It is opprobrious that in a country which is famous for non violence and ahimsa, still her children discriminate each other and isolate people. Gandhiji never wanted India to be wholly Hindu, wholly christian or wholly musalman but he dreamed and wanted India to be a highly tolerable <sup>land</sup> society which fosters brotherhood. These ideologies seems to be limited in his words because nobody has given it a pragmatic approach. Our culture insist tolerance, law insist tolerance but our country is dominated by intolerance and violence. Unnecessary chaos and bloodsheds mushrooms everyday.



Gandhiji always insisted on vocational education. But today we have a generation of bookworms who are just technically skilled barbarians and not emotionally fit human beings. Child labour prevention act was introduced in the year 1986 but still many children toil and burn midnight oil to earn square meal. Article 46 of Indian constitution makes provisions for free and compulsory education for all below the age of 14 but it still remains unfulfilled. India will become a developed nation only if women are free enough to walk through roads at midnight wearing gold ornament, these were the ~~idea~~ dreams of Gandhiji. But it still remains as a dream. IPC section 309 and 354

of Indian Penal code protects women and ensures safety and equality. But today we could find a stark failure in the part of law enforcement. Women are still denied of her rights. Nehru once quoted that "To awaken society, it is women who should be ~~awake~~ awakened. Once if she is on the move, family moves, village moves and society moves."

But Indian society still considers women as an adjunct to men and clips her wings. Gandhiji never wanted intoxicants to be supplied in our country. But today even our youth is under the trap of drugs.

The monster of drugs seem to be spreading its tentacles. Youth are not 100% of

society, but they are 100% of future. So Gandhiji quoted that youthful ideas and talents must be utilized for upliftment of our motherland and should not be converted to poms and shillings. But today we could find that brain drain is emerging as a threat in our country. This is clearly indicating the lack of patriotism in young minds. Gandhiji wanted India to be free from the clutches of poverty, corruption and terrorism. But these evils still remain in our country and flourish day by day. Youth can create a difference. With the magical pens of education we can make a change. To transform society we must roll up our sleeves and change

our diseased mindset. "Education is the movement from darkness to light" quoted Aldous Huxley. We should instill qualities into tender minds, so that they could do wonders.

### Conclusion.

"India should be transformed to a developed nation, a prosperous nation, a healthy nation with a value system."

- A.P.J Abdul Kalam.

The better way to predict future is to create it. We should never leave spaces while taking leaps. Away goes the devils when it finds door shut. A nation without a vision is dead. The strength of a nation is her youth. Youthful energies must be enriched with values and must be taught about the

visions of our great leaders. We should never let vision 2020 to be a dream and perish. Instead we should cherish the ideals and principles of our legendary epitomes. If we are joining our hands and turning 'I' to 'We' then even illness become 'wellness'. When we remove 'I' and 'Me' from our thought hatred goes out. If hatred goes out violence in thoughts vanishes. If violence in thoughts are taken away peace will spring in this world. and then world will become a better place to love. Article 51 A of Indian constitution says that, It shall be the duty of every Indian citizen to promote harmony and spirit of

common brotherhood transcending religious, regional and sectional diversities. Let us abhor to evil and cleave to good. Let us reach the multitude of success with an attitude to reach the attitude with good aptitude and fortitude. Let us no more give rooms for chaos and let us usher into an era of progress by standing on a strong footing. Let us no more deviate from our culture. An ounce of practise is worth more than tons of preaching. So let us practise what we preach. Let us adhere to Gandhian principles and strive for excellence. Let us arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.

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