



## Relevance of Gandhian Ideology to the Present Society

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**Abstract:** In Indian culture non-violence has always been regarded as the highest Dharma. There is no limit to its power. The psychology of non-violence is full of significance. It is a plan for self-purification, mass-purification and enemy-purification. It is an active principle of love. It is conscious suffering for the cause of righteousness. It is a way of righteousness. It is a way of life that makes the full use of the strength of the spirit. Gandhi provided the world with his timeless philosophy. It was not meant for the independence of India only. Nonviolence is itself normative. It applies to any situation. Though Gandhi is dead, his philosophy remains alive. "Gandhi is not finished. He is a living power, more powerful in death than life". Gandhi presents to us through his principles, the means of fighting for civil rights. Through Gandhi, we now understand that the philosophy of nonviolence can be applied in economics, politics, religion, society etc. Gandhi's Satyagraha has been applied to bring about useful changes. Many people all through the centuries have strove to follow Gandhi's spirit through seminars, workshops, writing of books and articles, projects, and strikes. Gandhi's spirit keeps on hovering in this world.

**Key words:** Truth, enemy-purification, philosophy.

### Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi is very famous in India as "Bapu" or "Rastrapita". He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. Mahatma Gandhi is called as Mahatma because of his great works and greatness all through the life. Mahatma Gandhi needs no long introduction. Everyone knows about the man who led the Indian people to independence from British rule in 1947. He was just 18 years old while studying law in the England. Later he went to British colony of South Africa to practice his law where he got differentiated from the light skin people because of being a dark skin person. That's why he decided to become a political activist in order to do some positive changes in such unfair laws.

### Concept of Non-Violence in Indian:

In Indian culture non-violence has always been regarded as the highest Dharma. There is no limit to its power. The psychology of non-violence is full of significance. It is a plan for self-purification, mass-purification and enemy-purification. It is an active principle of love. It is conscious suffering for the cause of righteousness. It is a way of righteousness. It is a way of life that makes the full use of the strength of the spirit.

### Truth and Non-Violence:

Truth and non-violence were the two sides of the same coin. Hence one can understand the importance of non-violence in the working of mahatma gandhi's propagation of non-violence was no novel or unprecedented act of the mahatma. As he himself has rightly said, " i have nothing new to teach the world. Truth and non-violence are as old as the



hills". If these means are truthful, just and healthy, then the society emerged would surely be a constructive one. It reflects that only an ideal means would lead to an ideal society. Therefore, truth and non-violence are playing an utmost important role in Gandhian philosophy.

Before going after the truth we should mull over the point why do we lie

1. When we want the situation to be in our favor
2. To take credit of someone else's work, to get fame
3. To avoid the punishment.
4. To get something, either by hook or crook
5. Some people are liar without any reason,

Wherever lies prevail, there is always bad blood, there is always confusion, there is always misunderstanding and there is always hopelessness. A relationship that is built on lies does not have any future though for sometimes it may look like it is succeeding. A job that is acquired on lies of non-existent competency is sure to fall flat after sometime. Three canonical scriptures of Ancient India – Vedas, Bhagvad Gita and Brahma Sutras explore and propagate "Truth" and truth alone. Vedas are said to be "Shruti" (learned by hearing), Gita, "Smriti" (digested by constant churning in mind) and Brahma Sutras, "Yukti" (explained by logic). Brahma Sutras explain "all the Truth" that contain in the scriptures with the help of "logic" for a student to learn what is truth because truth alone can sustain. It is because of the very sustaining nature of "Truth" one can constantly hear Arjuna being addressed as "Parth"

by Krishna in Mahabharata. The meaning of "Parth," is "the one who seeks truth: "Pa" = seeker + Arth=Truth).

#### Concept of Truth:

Truth is the rock foundation of every great character. It is loyalty to the right as we see it; it is courageous living of our lives in harmony with our ideals; it is always—power. Truth ever defies full definition. Like electricity is can only be explained by noting its manifestation. It is the compass of the soul, the guardian of conscience, the final touchstone of right. Truth is the revelation of the ideal; but it is also an inspiration to realize that ideal, a constant impulse to live it.

Everything is neutral in this world. Our perception makes it good or bad, truth or lie, rich or poor and it is all subjective. What may appear truthful to you may appear like a lie to others. So society has created this values to make sure people live in harmony. Otherwise man being a social animal will kill other beings for his own survival. If a person is conscious and true to himself, he will have good values and not harm other living beings- which is perceived as truthful. If a person seeks gratification on his own pleasures and have a huge disregard for other beings, obviously negative perceived traits like lies and bad qualities dominate. Maturity with regards to development of inner consciousness will make a person truthful or deceitful. they brandish about their activity as if they are the greatest person around you,

When a man discovers a great truth in Nature he has the key to the understanding of a million phenomenon; when he grasps a great truth in morals he has in it the key to his spiritual



recreation. For the individual, there is no such thing as theoretic truth; a great truth that is not absorbed by our whole mind and life, and has not become an inseparable part of our living, is not a real truth to us. If we know the truth and do not live it our life is—a lie.

The biggest truth about truth is it is only truth that sustains! No matter how strong the lies seem to be,

no matter how "truthful" it might look to be, no matter how strong are those who try to propagate the strong lies that almost look like truth, it has always been found that in the end, only truth prevails. That is the most important "property" of truth, a property only truth has.

**Mahatma Gandhi tips:**

The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problem. If I had no sense of humor, I would long ago have committed suicide. So let's just move on to some of my favourite tips from Mahatma Gandhi.

"You must be the change you want to see in the world."

"As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world – that is the myth of the atomic age – as in being able to remake ourselves."

If you change yourself you will change your world. If you change how you think then you will change how you feel and what actions you take. And so the world around you will change. Not only because you are now viewing your environment through new lenses of thoughts and emotions but also because the change within can allow you to take action in ways you wouldn't have – or maybe even

have thought about – while stuck in your old thought patterns.

And the problem with changing your outer world without changing yourself is that you will still be you. when you reach that change you have strived for. You will still have your flaws, anger, negativity, self-sabotaging tendencies etc. intact.

And so in this new situation you will still not find what you hoped for since your mind is still seeping with that negative stuff. And if you get more without having some insight into and distance from your ego it may grow more powerful. Since your ego loves to divide things, to find enemies and to create separation it may start to try to create even more problems and conflicts in your life and world.

Real success in life means the individual's conquest of himself; it means "how he has bettered himself" not "how he has bettered his fortune." The great question of life is not "What have I?" but "What am I"

**Satvameva Javate**" (satvameva iavate सत्यमेव जयते) (Sanskrit: "Truth Alone Triumphs") is the national motto of India. It is inscribed in Devanagari script at the base of the national emblem, which is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Asoka at Sarnath, near Varanasi in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The origin of the motto is a well-known mantra 3.1.6 from the mundaka Upanishad .

Full mantra as follows: satyameva jayate nānṛtaṁ satyena panthā vitato devayānaḥ

|  
yenā kramantyrṣayo hyāptakāmā  
yatra tat satyasya paramaṁ nidhānam ||

**Meaning:**

Truth alone triumphs; not falsehood. Through truth the divine path is spread out by which the sages whose desires



have been completely fulfilled, reach where that supreme treasure of Truth resides.

**Advise:** "Anything Can Be Sacrificed For Truth But Truth Can Not Be Sacrificed For Any Thing"

**Conclusion:** Gandhi provided the world with his timeless philosophy. It was not meant for the independence of India only. Nonviolence is itself normative. It applies to any situation. Though Gandhi is dead, his philosophy remains alive. "Gandhi is not finished. He is a living power, more powerful in death than life". Gandhi presents to us through his principles, the means of fighting for civil rights. Through Gandhi, we now understand that the philosophy of nonviolence can be applied in economics, politics, religion, society etc. Gandhi's Satyagraha has been applied to bring about useful changes. Many people all through the centuries have strove to follow Gandhi's spirit through seminars, workshops, writing of books and articles, projects, and strikes. Gandhi's spirit keeps on hovering in this world.

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