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# IMPACT OF GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY ON COMMUNAL HARMONY

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**Abstract:** The better life for humankind can be achieved by following Gandhiji's life ,ideals and work. Now the entire political, economical and social set up has changed tremendously. The moral and ethical issues proposed by him still can guide the future of individuals and nations.

Gandhiji followed the advice of Sri Gopala Krishna Gokhale, the political guru of Gandhiji and started studying the socio- economic condition of our country .He observed that there is lot of diversity existing in our country. So, he developed a strong will to bring unity in diversity. He realized that there is lot of disputes between Hindus and Muslims. The British took this as advantage and started the disharmony among them. Then the existing politics succeeded in dividing these two communities .Gandhiji worked hard to bring communal harmony till his last breath.

Gandhiji wanted to establish universal religion. He gave the concept of religious tolerance and asked us to respect all religions .He inspired all people to live like one nation but not like people practicing like different religions The present scenario is very worse. Now a days there is no harmony at least between any two persons. The occurrence of communal riots are still existing. Our leaders are playing with the religious sentiments and find opportunities to create riots by providing separatist and antisocial forces .Now, we find political instability and social tensions which hinder development in all walks of our lives.

Gandhiji is absolutely relevant in this modern era. This concept of non-violence still holds good in these days. Violence cannot solve any problem .Gandhiji encourage the path of dialogue and understanding of each other can bring religious harmony. This will create a right atmosphere and would prove effective remedy to any kind of violence. Gandhiji opined that the freedom and growth of our nation depends on communal unity. The collected works of Mahatma Gandhiji speaks how his philosophy can bring communal harmony.

Gandhiji used to stress the fact that faith in truth,love and non violence can only bring communal harmony. He wanted that Hindu and Muslim communities should live like children of same mother. He wanted that both the parties should be inspired by spirit of sacrifice. They should do their own duties rather than fighting for rights. He wanted both communities to promote mutual affection by living with the idea of equality and independence.

People think that Gandhiji is irrelevant to our era of globalization and liberalization. we thought his ideas to be highly conservative and his views are out of date. We think that he was too religious to be fit in this world. The economic policies of Gandhiji were not liked by Nehru. The leader like Patel, Ambedkar etc were against his ideas.Gandhiji had to deal with a complex society and a mighty imperialist power like Britain. In such a critical situation Gandhiji was successful in establishing communal harmony by his philosophy. This paper deals with different aspects of his philosophy that contribute for the communal harmony.

**Keywords:** Gandhian Philosophy, Communal Harmony, Ect.

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**Introduction:** Gandhian philosophy is three in one. It connects naturalism, idealism, and pragmatism. In certain aspects his ideas represented Naturalism, on some it reflected Idealism .Undoubtedly he was Pragmatic in all his approaches while solving any problems. This pragmatic approach to solve problems was always inspired by certain basic and unchanging principles. In spite of some inconsistencies all his statements were possessing inherent unity.

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Now in the entire world individuals and groups are divided because of fear, suspicion and hatred. The differences are due to religion, Economic, political, cast of colour lines. There is insecurity among people. Now we seldom find any integrated family or community. Ghandiji wanted that every individual must rise above fear, jealousy, and hate. He was always against communal jealousy and discord. Gandhian writings and speeches stressed the need for better understanding among individuals and communities. He entered politics with an ethical urge but soon he realized that people will not feel secure till the physical cause of conflict like insufficiency of food, shelter and other necessities has been vanished completely. Ghandiji had very strong thoughts of harmony in individuals and society. Really his philosophy had lot of influence to bring communal harmony.

**Necessity of Communal Harmony:** In south Africa Ghandiji experienced the need for communal harmony. In South Africa he worked with people from different parts of our country and it was like a miniature India. Due to difference in many aspects he struggled to secure the co-operation of all the communities living there. So, the idea of communal harmony emerged in Ghandiji's mind. Mainly he wanted to established harmony between Hindus and Muslims, He considered that if Hindu -Muslim unity is established, the unity with other communities could easily be achieved. Due to evil designs of British Government there was great agitation in the hearts of Muslims. In this connection Mahamtha Gandhi propose the concept of Satyagraha. The incident of Jalianwalla Bagh and atrocities and humiliations by British Government had created intense resentment among all class. In this background he became the leader and wanted to unite Hindus and Muslims. His idea of unity was based on the principle of Ahimsa, which tells us not to hurt others by our ideas even. He had very firm faith in Hindu and Muslim unity, which lead to communal harmony i.e. unity all communities. He continued to fight bravely for this unity till the end of his life.

**Prominent features of Mahatma Gandhi:** When wholesale massacres and arson along with loot were being carried out on a large scale, he always showed his full effort to stop the holocaust and to establish reconciliation. His writings and speeches gave evidence that he had burning desired to establish communal unity and remove ill-will. Once he rushed to Noakhali where the Muslim were majority and Hindus were minority. He lived with Muslims and walked from village to village on his mission for peace and inspired all.

In Bihar Hindus were majority and Muslims were minority then Ghandiji took a fast to mitigate a situation of unrest. Does we witness such incidences in his life, were he always wanted to re establish peace between the communities. He never thought that Hindus and Muslims are nation and always propagated the idea of communal harmony. He wanted replace exploitation of the week by the strong spirit of mutual respect.

**Communal Harmony Ghandiji's Life Long Dream:** Through out of his long life, Gandhi worked for toleration based on understanding and respect. He used his strength against the forces of evil that was spreading on the Indians subcontinent during the critical years when he achieved Independence. His life was a saga of sacrifice and service.

To become the cement between Hindus and Muslims. He wanted to use his blood and his words proved to highly prophetic. He laid down his life to establish a sense of brotherhood and understanding between the two major communities of India. This was extended to all communities in this subcontinent and by implications among all the communities of the world.

**Gandhiji Laid The Road to Communal Harmony:** Now, The world is full of tension and turmoil. The social, political, racial and international tensions and conflicts is threatening the very existence of mankind. The seeds of crime and violence are in the soil of our minds. Now Gandhian philosophy inspired us to dug up the roots and turn over the seeds of mutual understanding and respect, love and co-operation. If seeds of violence are allowed to sprout up the humanity will perish. Gandhiji showed the way not only to retrace our steps but also to reach unity of life.

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He did not use abstractions and aphorisms, precepts and harmony but showed the path of communal harmony with the imprints of his life long commitment to generate the ideas of peace among the people of the world .He satisfied his ideas with supreme sacrifice.

We have won freedom through the sufferings and struggle of countless men and women .These people turned as Hero and Heroines by the alchemy of Gandhiji's touch .Now the question is weather the people of the world turned into one nation. Can we unite the hearts and communities for communal harmony. Now, Let us all join hands to raise the edifice of the world to fulfil the dreams of Gadhiji. Let us establish a strong code of conduct to achieve the national integration and then march toward international understanding. There is no substitute for the ideas of Gandhiji because they born out of depths of his own rich and intimate experience with a spiritual vigour and vitality. This impact cannot be created by any other intellectual and endeavour.

**His Approach to Communal Harmony:** Gandhiji from his early days never made any distinction between Hindus,Muslims,Parsis and others. He never visualized the differences among people of other religions .In south Africa made his mission to serve both Hindu and Muslim friends .He laid stress on the necessity of for getting all distinctions among all communities .He never missed an opportunities to remove obstacles in the way of unity.

When Gandhiji was back to India from London,he dedicated his efforts to secure a proper solution to the problems of communal disharmony .He devoted his life for two things, one for permanent unity between Hindus and Muslims and satyagraha which may lead to unity .He had close touch with Muslim stalwarts to discover Musلمان mind and wanted to prove that he loved both .He was the equal servant of all.

**Understanding The Character of Communal Unity to Remove Perpetual Unity:** In those days animosity existed between Hindus and Muslims. The advent of British rule made them to forget racial hatred .All communities lived in peace and friendship during British raj. The Hindus and Muslims forget their differences .The Ali brothers started delivering the massage of Hindu- Muslims unity and swaraj to masses. They have realized that they shall live together and die together in the land of their birth, which was india .Massive gathering of Muslim and Hindus was held at jamma masjid at Delhi and was addressed by swami shadhanand to mark the concept of communal harmony among Hindus and Muslims.

**Achievement of Communal Unity:** The communal unity consists in our having a common purpose, a common goal and common sorrows .We have a common goal .It can be best promoted by cooperating to reach the common goal. Each one should share the sorrows and by mutual tolerations .Gandhiji strived hard to achieve communal unity. He wanted to bridge the social distance and he wanted to do through religious beliefs.

Gandhiji wanted to bring order out of chaos. He believed that we will ultimately bound to come together .He wanted to the leaders should come in terms. He had faith that chaos order in going to emerge.

Gandhiji proposed that the master key to the solution is the replacement of the rule of sword by that of arbitration. Every case must be referred to private arbitration or to law courts. We path violence should be dispelled.

Gandhiji wanted to appoint a judicial tribunal to decide the communal question at issue. People should reach at an agreed solution. The judicial tribunal can certainly be trusted to adjudicate between the various claims. In Gandhiji's view a civilized method can be followed.

If we want the unity becomes reality, both communities will have to give up a good deal and will have to make radical changes in their ideas. He hoped that mutual tolerance will bring a solution. This is the need for all time and for all races.

The communal harmony could be achieved by charity towards opponents. Democracy is not possible if we are not prepared to hear the other side. The habit of intolerance makes us to miss the truth.

The idea of nationalism is very essential to have continuous communal harmony. Gandhiji wanted that people should be large heartedness. Love is the basis of our friendship. If Love persists even the part of one community, unity will become a fact at national level.

**Idea of Gandhi in Modern Era:** Science and technology have brought different countries of the world to a position in which they can and must live in cooperation with one another or perish. This is the age of atomic power and there is availability of atomic weapons that they may cause man's destruction. The big powers must understand the fear of other small nations and follow the path shown by Gandhiji to establish the peace in the world. We have to establish one world with political, economical freedom and prosperity.

**Conclusion:** As the day passes by Gandhiji may recede from our minds, but his truth and idea of communal harmony assumes a more crucial and compelling validity to present problems. Now we are in nuclear age and now leading to space age. We have mastered the physical universe. But, the concepts of parochialism and the pettiness, the jealousy and intolerance, the hatred and the violence are dividing man by man and nation by nation. We have progressed intellectually and materialistically but we have less moral and spiritual progress.

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