

Relevance of Gandhi's movement of boycott in the 21st century

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ABSTRACT

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, an apostle of peace, a preacher of non-violence and truth brought out tremendous changes in the history of India. Those changes not only put India on a road to the Independence but also presented several unprecedented changes which allowed Indians to explore their freedom in an appropriate measurement. Not only women like Kanaklata Barua and Aruna Asaf Ali received a great opportunity to understand their role in the country but also presented altogether a different dimension in the political field. Even men like freedom fighters like Subhash Chandra Bose, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipan Chandra Pal, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Chandra Shekhar Azad and many more completely transformed the idea of diversified India. Many significant movements like non-cooperation movement, Swadeshi movement allowed the leaders of India to give the forthcoming generation a completely different picture. This paper will analyse significance of an idea of boycott's relevance in the 21st century.

1. Introduction

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi who is considered as a great leader, philanthropist, orator and preacher generated some significant ideas, which echoed over the decades in India. Infact, even after the freedom struggle of India, his teachings became the best template to showcase his power to establish a systematic rule in the post-independence era.

The reformations along with just policies brought out India with full determination and influenced the self-perpetuating and a cycle of methodical transformations in thinking and lifestyle. A success to gain independence in India accomplished the scattered diverse thoughts.

The resolutions for conflicts through peaceful dialogues and movements significantly influenced the mindset of the common people. Common people also followed a leader, allowing the beginning of the mass-participation. Taking inspiration from the leaders' voiciferous attitude, won in large numbers came out of their homes, becoming the voice of the nation.

One of the highlights of the freedom struggle of India was the Swadeshi movement or boycott movement which brought about revolutionary changes and transformed the picture of country India. Indian economy which was facing a downturn witnessed as watershed movement when Gandhi announced the enhancement of rural India economy.

The Swadeshi or boycott movements also brought about changes especially in the Indian National Congress (INC) from being driven largely to the main agenda set by the 'Extremists'. The Congress's in 1906 Calcutta session's call for 'Swaraj' or 'self- government'.

Even the ideas of non-cooperation and passive resistance, which was successfully applied several years later by Mahatma Gandhi. In the early 20th century, they found the Swadeshi and boycott movements.

British seeded the seeds of communalism deeply into India's social fabric, and the Swadeshi movement. It was supposed to extend support from the Muslim masses,

especially the Muslim peasantry. In large parts of Bengal, in an inverse class relationship with the Hindu zamindars.

Mahatma Gandhi's words of freedom, peace and tranquility echoed India. The Father of the nation presented a wholesome unique ideas and constructive ideas which built the nation post-independence.

In June 1919, the pure swadeshi cloth store was established in Mumbai, offering sale on all the types of cloth woven out of yarn spun from indigenous cotton, wool and silk.

Gandhi widely appealed the masses to follow the patriotic lines. An idea to establish a self-sufficient economy, Gandhi mainly emphasised on the encouragement of rural economy. During those times, the mill owners and cloth merchants assisted the swadeshi movement a successful one.

In the 21st century, the relevance of boycott movement holds a major importance. The ideas like slashing down the import of Chinese goods is the best example to signify the boycott movement.

Due to the sudden outbreak of Coronavirus, the governments across India took an initiative to cut down the use of Chinese goods. This resentment against China is not new. Over the decades, China and India's geopolitics relations were not cordial. The issue has gained even more importance over the Aksai china region which had been historically considered as a part of China.

So, in this paper we will analyse how Mahatma Gandhi's principles like truth, non-violence and peace are relevant in India in the 21st century.

2. Gandhian Principles

M.K. Gandhi who had continuously worked throughout his life on the principles of truth, non-violence and peaceful protest ideated the root cause of the unsystematic behaviour of the whole system. By propagating the ideals like these, he not only foreseen the future of the country India but he also contributed significant time towards enhancing the human civilization. By

merely adopting these ideals, he put forward an example in the society for everyone.

Due to the prolonged discontent in the society after a conflict between the farmers and the British raj officials, the identification of such ideals created a motivational environment to allow a mass-gathering. From Swadeshi movement to the non-cooperation movement, a considerable amount of response from the mass took the nation's image to a next level. Interestingly, several extremists who were violent in nature disfavoured these ideas. But the patience and resistance towards Truth and non-cooperation considerably brought out the transformations at a broader level. So, let's discuss these ideas in sequence to comprehend the meaning.

3. Truth (Satya)

To live a disciplined life, the Yoga-shastras as well as the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali preached the truthfulness in its full essence. Gandhi believed that 'there is no religion higher than truth', which means if one has spoken the truth, no-one can demean his/her existence beyond religion.

Speaking truth is an act of valour as it brought out the personality transformation. Accepting mistakes quite often can be a handy tool to provide the offenders a proper way to channelise their behaviour accordingly.

(A) Satyagraha

Ones who follow the path of Satyagraha are the peaceful demonstrators who make Satyagraha as their powerful weapon to protest against the dominance of British authorities. The prolonged fasts for the welfare of the people turned out to be a beneficial tool for the betterment of the human civilization. Gandhi said, "Satyagraha is a weapon of the strong; it admits of no violence under any circumstance whatsoever; and it ever insists upon truth". Satyagraha is a path that can give you the fruits of the success for the long run. Gandhi understood the value of the composite concept of social welfare and economic justice. Any action aiming at the welfare of the people will be accepted by all.

(B) Non-violence (Ahimsa)

Gandhi preached the path of non-violence which should be practiced not only in actions but also in the thoughts and speech. It also forms the genesis of Jainism and Hinduism as a religion.

Gandhi's concept of non-violence is not merely confined to resisting the practice of violence. It involves the elimination of hatred, animosity, revengefulness and thought of violence from the mind. Non-violence is an expression to signify the extreme power of mind and soul over brute force.

The violent actions generally infuse the feeling of animosity, hatred and revengefulness, but the non-violent actions add the meaning and essence in a disciplined manner. Though it was difficult to understand the concept of Ahimsa, as forwarded by Gandhiji, with the due strenuous course of training of the mental ability, the whole nation understood the viability of non-violent means of actions.

But with time in various research articles it was underlined a fact that after a significant time period, the world will realise the importance of cosmic applications and surely adopt the way of life. In fact, in my opinion, after viewing the present scenario where everyone is crying it out loud for the preservation of

humane civilization, a day is not far away when 'unity is strength' will leave an indelible impression. The world is undergoing a depressed situation where economy is slumping down, prevalence of unemployment is prevailing creating discontent among the masses, a sudden outbreak of coronavirus has also shaken the health sector worldwide. A sudden silence on the roads has therefore, made us realise the significance of a right lifestyle.

Gandhi will surely solve the present mental crisis to understand the impermanence of lifestyle.

C) Vegetarianism

The vegetarianism in the present scenario is rarely accepted. In India, only 31 percent of the population is considered vegetarian. Over 70 percent constituted Indians who are mostly Non-Vegetarian. There are a large number of meat-eaters in Kerala. In fact, there are more men than women who eat non-vegetarian food in India. Among women, only 36.6 per cent eat fish, chicken or meat weekly.

Adopting vegan diet is a personal choice and elimination of the consumption of junk foods that are high on cholesterol consisting saturated fats will prove to have a tremendous effect. This can help in solving two purposes- one can combat obesity and they can maintain a healthy living lifestyle.

Vaishnavites are also one category who is a staunch follower of vegetarianism. Moreover, it's all about self-discipline and understanding your body's requirement. It was because of the conviction of Gandhiji who profoundly and successfully influenced the masses on large scale. What was even more interesting to note was, after the understanding the basic thought, idea behind Gandhi's philosophies, people across the nation and world followed him unhesitatingly. This contributed to a greater amalgamation of diverse people's thoughts, expressions in one nation. When the nation grew as one in unity, their unity successfully ousted the British Raj. So, step by step common people got influenced with one or two thoughts and contributed towards a bigger national movement.

He was a dedicated and passionate leader who vowed not to follow any wrong habit because it becomes the weakness towards developing an idea of improvement. Therefore, he once said that adopting wrong habits a sign of destroying your own spirit. "I was fully conscious when I started taking mother goat's milk, that the spirit of my vow was destroyed. Consequently, one of the greatest experiments in my life came to a stop."

In these Corona times, it can be said that though being Vegan will not guarantee longer life but it can provide you a healthier living lifestyle.

D) Brahmacharya

Brahmacharya is a self-restraint state when an individual promises himself/herself to live a fixed time period under a celibate state. Therefore, marriage should be considered as a religious sacrament that is imposing discipline upon the partners and advocate an idea to restrict their physical activity before their union. God has ideated a theory that enables us to think and distinguish between his sister, mother, daughter and wife.

Gandhiji believed that a man behaves like an inspid or animal-like creature without brahmacharya. The main aspect of the brahmacharya is to have full control over the process of

reproduction. This constraint should be defined in thoughts, words and deeds. If a particular thought is not in under control, other two have no value.

In its full sense, Brahmacharya can be developed involuntarily in the thought process through the affection of the mind; and curbing of thought. Therefore, it means to curbing the mind is more difficult than curbing the wind. Thus, an existence of God within can make possible the control of the mind. Following controlling the senses, the brain allows an individual to grow as a human with due process of transformation. The basic purpose to opt Brahmacharya is to understand the spiritual life and attainment of the higher self. There are three steps to attain brahmacharya.

The first step is to realise the need's necessity. The second step is to gradually control the senses.

A brahmachari must need to control his palate. He must eat to live not for enjoyment. He must see only clean things and close his eyes if anything is not clean.

The third step is to have a clean companion, clean friends and clean books.

The last but not the least, he should not forget to do his prayers.

So, brahmacharya holds an utmost importance in an individual's life to make him a better person in his life. A self-improvement is the root cause of all the developed personalities. What is even more important to note is to understand the value of self-restraint and self-control to put yourself on a path of your ambitions.

E) Simplicity

Gandhi practised simplicity and minimalism during British era when Indians were attracting towards the fancy life, items of Britishers.

Days when Indians were busy in praising the extravagant life of Britishers, Gandhi came out as a pioneer to make people understand the value of simple living and high thinking. He only put forward a basic idea for the survival that is--- to live a happy and contented life, it is viable to feel accomplished in its true sense. Gandhi's style of living was simple as he successfully removed the caste barriers by accepting the Harijans.

By reforming various deep-rooted social issues, he became the preacher, guide by propogating an idea of simplicity through his simple means of communication. He also advised to adopt the hand- spinning to transform the deprived economic situation.

Gandhi's simple way of life was an irrational to many people. Interestingly, his simple word and thoughts became the only power of strength and allowed the Indians to move forward in national movement. With truth and non-violence, Gandhi was determined to reach his ultimate goals.

F) Faith

Gandhiji's idea of faith focussed mainly on respecting the innate quality of a belief. It can be a faith in religion and doctrine. Gandhiji's basic purpose to understand the value of faith is through converting themselves to a good follower. Rather than being critical about religion, it's better to be a good follower, in order to avoid conflicts.

He put forward a simple theory to understand the essence of faith. His theory was surrounded the acceptance of God, believed all great religions are fundamentally equal, sacred

duty. It can be based on the equal status in the spirit of God. An establishment of religious symbols was also a signotry of faith. Gandhiji's statements were never meant to undermine other person's faith but to make a fallower of his/her own faith. Understanding religion, it's viable for everyone to believe in faith. Religion is a study of an object when in mostly debates emerged with different faiths and interaction.

In a research article, main points were highlighted such as 1) All religions are true; (2) All religions have some errors in them; (3) All religions are almost as dear to me as my own Hinduism. 4) All human beings should be as dear to me as one's own close relatives.

My own veneration of faiths is own faith.

Gandhi was essentially a man of faith.

For he believed in undying faith which suddenly changed into his actions all through his life including the secularism.

Even a fathomless faith gave him a rare sense of fearlessness inspiring the life and thinking of his countless followers.

It was his abiding faith in truth, non-violence and purity of means which endowed him with a rare knack to take momentous decisions based on his 'inner voice'.

Gandhi considered 'inner voice' is the most effective medium for comprehending the truth.

Not just that, Gandhi began his religious belief that was stranger to his own faith.

G) Sarvodya (Welfare of People)

Mohandas Gandhi coined the term of Sarvodya in the year 1908 in the translation of John Ruskin's tract on political economy named as 'Unto This Last'.

Sarvodya 'Universal Uplift' or 'Progress of All'. The term was only meant to highlight his own political philosophy.

The Indian embraced the term non-violence activist Vinoba Bhave, a name for the social movement in the post-independence India which strove to opt for self-determination and equality that reached all the strata of the Indian society.

Many theorists have come forward to ideate on the term Sarvodya. It was J. P. Narayan who held the view that sarvodya literally means a sublimation of the goals of freedom, equality, brotherhood and peace.

A realisation of a rich in totality and an integrated life is the basic /idea to define Sarvodya.

While according to Kumarappa, Sarvodaya has elucidated the ideal social order.

The basis is all about embracing love.

J. P. Chandra opines that bringing together the whole country, one can establish decentralisation of both political and economic powers. Sarvodya is an opportunity of overall development of the individual in the society.

The primary aim of propounding the philosophy of Sarvodya is to explain the movement in a comprehensive manner:

1. Make a strong belief on God: Sarvodya reiterated on God belief and goodness of man and with services, of humanity.

2. Principle of trusteeship: The principle of trusteeship has mainly emphasised on the abolition of the private ownership. Another main factor which is important is the application of the principle of non-possession to public institutions.

3. Establishes a decentralised organisation:

Sarvodya, the welfare for all, idea only spreads among the people of India. This model of explanation is applicable among the small scale, cottage and village industries.

The relevance of boycott movement in today's times

Another important factor that needs to be understood is the viability of various movements during the freedom struggle of India. From the Quit India movement to non-cooperation movement, the phase filled all the citizens of India with new spirit to live the era through their openness and ideations.

Interestingly, these movements led to a marvellous platform for various women who made remarkable changes and transformation throughout society. Despite setting examples, but also allowed a section of women to understand their regressive position in the society.

Notably, the relevance of boycott movement was highlighted with the recent order issued by PM Narendra Modi in the favour of boycott of export and import of Chinese goods with India.

Before we discuss the boycott movement in detail for the present scenario. Let's discuss the history of Boycott movement or non-cooperation movement.

4. Figures, statistics

Over 1000 people had marched to the police stations, collector's office and other government buildings with derogatory materials attacked. Reportedly, 51 government buildings were burnt down by rioters consisting Ahmedabad city Over 1000 people had marched to the police stations, collector's office and other government buildings with derogatory materials attacked. Reportedly, 51 government buildings were burnt down by rioters consisting Ahmedabad city Over 1000 people marched to the police stations, collector's office and other government buildings with derogatory materials which were later burnt and 51 government buildings were burnt down by rioters consisting mainly textile workers of the Ahmedabad city. During the firing of the police and military, 28 people were killed and 123 wounded. Thousands people left their government controlled schools, colleges, headmasters and teachers resigned and lawyers gave up their legal practices.

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5. Present statistics

Crowds as large as 1000 people marched to the police stations, collector's office and other 51 government buildings were burnt down by rioters consisting mainly the textile workers of the Ahmedabad city Recently, Centre banned more than 118 Chinese Apps including popular highly gaming app. Apps like PUBG MOBILE Nordic Map: Livik, PUBG MOBILE LITE, WeChat Work and WeChat reading are among the banned mobile apps.

In June, India banned more than 59 apps along with Chinese links, including TikTok, UC Browser, Weibo, Baidu Map and Baidu Translate.

We can relate the major effect that impacted the whole country. From economy to the mass participation, every sector indicated an idea to put India on a progressive road.

6. History of non-cooperation movement

Launched on September 5, 1920 by Mahatma Gandhi to fulfil an aim of self-governance and obtaining full independence. Indian National Congress (INC) couldn't show its full support for British reforms after the initiation of Rowlatt Act of 21 March 1919. This movement was also crucial as it happened right after the incident of Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 13 April 1919

It was one of the movements to induce the British government of India or swaraj to India.

The core aim of the movement was to make it a non-violent consisting Indians who were to resign their titles, boycotting government educational institutions, the courts, government service, foreign goods, and elections; and, eventually, refusing to pay taxes.

The non-cooperation movement was agreed by the Indian National Congress at Calcutta (now Kolkata) in September 1920, and launched that December.

Non-cooperation movement worked on the basis of following three principles:

Firstly, it is pertinent to adopt swadeshi principles that increase the usage of Indian goods. It will entail the India industries like hand spinning and weaving. Extensively work for the eradication of untouchability from society.

The movement was an awakening one in the Independence movement. This movement as a big success as it receives a huge encouragement from millions of Indians.

7. Participation

Thousands of people participated in the movement. From government officers, headmasters, teachers resigned to participate in the movement. The council elections were boycotted in the most provinces of Madras.

The first non-co-operation sowed the seed of British control over India. The non-cooperation movement 2.0 took India towards yet another independence, this time, it was freedom of spirit and mind.

8. Relevance of non-cooperation movement

The relevance of the non-cooperation movement holds a great significance to strike a balance in the economy. Overindulgence on the goods manufactured by the foreign countries leads to a loss of Domestic economy many times. Reliance over the goods exported by the other countries

increases which can, in turn, lead to loose of employment, loss of trust in the Indian goods.

At one step it is disadvantageous for the inhouse economy, it also leads to mass brain drain. Several times, many young and enthusiastic minds feel the lack of opportunities in terms of financial security, job security and think of visiting other countries to make their future secure.

The non-cooperation movement is one of the movements which is counted among the decisive decisions of Mahatma Gandhi, for the first time. The INC was fully prepared to forego the constitutional means to achieve self-rule.

Be it education sector, government offices or participation in elections of legislative councils and boycott turned out to be a beneficial way to echo the sound of India's Independence from the tyranny of East India Company.

Now, if we take into the picture of today's India, though globalisation has definitely proved to be an appropriate tool to increase the economy of countries widespread.

But most importantly, the extensive interference of foreign countries have taken away the major chunk of our country's brilliance. It's an accepted fact that the country is not enough to pay the right amount to the intelligent brains, however, a frequent emphasis on the brain drain can be assessed properly to analyse the core complication of the existing situation.

Recent order passed by BJP during lockdown due to COVID 19

Undoubtedly, the recent order to boycott Chinese goods is a significant step in the history of India's economy to allow Indian users to enhance their workforce' capabilities and products efficiently and effectively. However, this order has questioned the limitations of the Indian economy in extending its economic relations with China. An old friendship with China turned sour during lockdown days, due to the stand-off between India and China on the eastern Ladakh.

9. The boycott of Chinese goods will solve major problems:

1. **Enhance economy:** India will get an opportunity to enhance its overall economy.
2. **Traditional economy:** The traditional economy like handicrafts, weaving and spinning industries which lagged behind the modern economy, will get an opportunity to improve.
3. **Job opportunities:** A sudden cease of Chinese products which captured the Indian market massively will provide an ample of job opportunities to Indian manufacturers to explore.
4. **Agricultural sector:** A major proportion of Indian economy covers agricultural sector. Farming is one sector where farmers can receive a large number of opportunities to work innovatively, efficiently and effectively. This will be possible only due to the government's approaches towards schemes and formulation of policies. More and more farming techniques can be improved, farming jobs, awareness about the value of farming can be spread easily.
5. **Small-scale industries**

With the advent of globalisation in the Indian, a large number of a large scale of industries have found a better way to extend its boundaries through outsourcing and capturing the domestic market by

accepting the demands from foreign countries. This will allow small-scale industries to progress efficiently.

10. A ban on porn

Films which are being watched in hidden areas of rooms has erupted a debate among the scholars regarding its idea of increasing sexual arouses resulting in criminal activities. The consequences can vary according to a particular set of thoughts.

Some scholars contented a theory that portraying a nude image on camera can be a personal choice of women towards the sexual destinies.

That it should not affect the mindset of men. While some theorists have ideated a fact that it does lead to the gratification of men's mindset.

On the other hand, child pornography is completely not acceptable. Without the consent of parents, if a child has been forced to do obscene or vulgar scenes, it's a crime. Conveying an idea of making a child merely has used material on the internet gives a wrong impression on the society.

Overall, it will surely lead to cleaning and filtration of mindset towards adapting and adopting right way of browsing the internet.

11. Conclusion

China and India relationship had been sharing sweet and sour relations in the geopolitics from a long period of time.

The newly passed order has transformed the history of economic relations. A sudden break in the on-going economic trade with China is presenting a progressive image on India's part.

Non-cooperation prevent relevance holds a significance in today's scenario mildly in terms of developing the economic relations within and outside the boundaries.

It's a good attempt to uplift the economy domestically and to focus on internal progressive energies.

Gandhi's non-cooperation movement has great relevance when it comes to beginning a large mass movement to know about political rights. It encourages poor people to participate in balancing the economy through healthy competition.

Also, it makes a self-reliable, self-resilient, self-resistant economy to the uncertainties and vulnerabilities of the unforeseen future. It also eliminates the hindrances caused by unhealthy competition.

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