



Gandhi role in mass movement

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Abstract

The advent of Mahatma Gandhi was an indelible landmark in the history of the national movement. He energized the national movement by resurrecting the dormant ideology of truthfulness and non-violence and compelled the British to leave the country at their earliest. Mahatma Gandhi, a reformist of the 19th century, transformed the nature of the national movement by thoughts, workings, and movement. Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915. Before his arrival, the national movement had a different nature, but after 1915, the movement took on a mass movement. Gandhi was born at Porbandar in Gujarat on 2nd Oct 1869. At the age of 18, he went to England. Mahatma Gandhi played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of India. His non-violent ways and peaceful methods were the foundation for gaining independence, from the British. After Independence, in democratic India, people can either petition the government for redress of grievances or stand for elections themselves.

Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi, landmark, national movement

Introduction

The respect that Gandhi earned for himself despite leading a simple lifestyle is much appreciable. Mahatma Gandhi played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of India. His non-violent ways and peaceful methods were the foundation for gaining independence from the British.

The civil disobedience movement was a vital part of Indian freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi against the ruling colonial government. While addressing the nation in a newspaper, Young India, in march 1930, Gandhi expressed his willingness to suspend the movement if his eleven demands get accepted by the government.

One of the greatest men in the history of India is Mahatma Gandhi. The way he gave shape and character to India's freedom struggle is worthy of a standing ovation. He sacrificed his own life for the sake of his country. The respect that he earned for himself despite leading a simple lifestyle is much appreciable. Mahatma Gandhi played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of India. His non-violent ways and peaceful methods were the foundation for gaining independence from the British. After independence, in democratic India, people can either petition the government for redress of grievances or stand for election themselves.

Aims and objectives of reserrch

- To know the importance of mass movement
- To know the Gandhi ji's idea and success through mass movement.
- To aware the people about their rights and duties.
- To aware people for better society and stronger nation.
- To understand impact of non-violence instrument of mass movement on the nation.

Research methodology

For this research paper primary and secondary data is used. Gandhian mass movement information was collected from Gandhain literature. Present mass movement in India's information is collected from secondary data. Descriptive and analytic methods were used for research paper.

Nature and scope of research paper

In this research paper I only discussed on concept of mass movement. Before Independence Mahatma Gandhi such mass movement activities to free India from British rule. After independence such type of Instrument were used by various person Eg Jai Prakash Narayan, Anna Hazare, Baba Ramdev. We know that Anna Hazare, Baba Ramdev used this instrument against corruption.

Mahatma Gandhi and mass movement

Satyagraha, The Rowlatt Act, Non-Cooperation Movement, Dandi March, Quit India Movement, Social Movements After Independence are started by Mahatma Gandhi for Independence of India as per the need of the society. He successfully organised mass movement on the following incidence and got aim of Independence of India. After arriving in India, Mahatma Gandhi successfully organized Satyagraha movements in various places.

The effects of Non-Cooperation on the economic front were more dramatic:

- Foreign goods were boycotted
- Liquor shops picketed
- Foreign clothes burnt in huge bonfires

Impact of these mass movements the import of foreign cloth halved between 1921 and 1922. Its value was dropping dramatically. Production of Indian goods went up.

Gandhi convert national movement into a mass movement: Mahatma Gandhi took charge of the movement from 1915 and started a Satyagraha movement against the Rowlatt Act in 1919 and the violence following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, he called of the movement. Gandhi made the movement truly national by bringing in more Muslims by supporting the Khilafat Movement.

Satyagraha as the Gandhian approach to conflict resolution

Satyagraha is Gandhi's technique of nonviolent activism. The term has variously been translated as 'passive resistance', 'nonviolent resistance'.

There are norms: the first norm relates to goals and conflicts, and states that one should act in conflicts.

The second norm relates to conflict struggle and enjoins one to act nonviolent in conflicts.

The thirds and final norm relate to conflicts resolution, and it directs that conflicts should be solved.

“It is often forgotten that is never the intention of a Satyagrahi to embarrass the wrong doer”, the Satyagrahi’s object is to convert, not to coerce, the wrong doer”.

In a conflict situation, for Gandhi, there is no other plan than the adherence to nonviolence in thought, word and deed, and no other goal than to reach the truth. Because good ends can never grow of bad means, the opponent is not forced to expose him or herself to loss. There is ideally no threat, coercion or punishment. Instead, in Gandhi’s scheme, the idea is to undergo ‘self-suffering’ in the belief that the opponent can be converted to seeing the truth by touching his or her conscience, or that a clearer vision of truth may grow out of the dialectical process for both parties.

Gandhi’s satyagraha may be ‘one of the most viable techniques of conflict resolution.

Before leading the Indian freedom movement, Gandhi used to live on South Africa to fight against injustice and class division.

The exhibition of 200 photographs follows Gandhi from the FIRST protest march he led in Champaran in 1917 to the quit India Movement in 1942. It covers the Ahmedabad mill workers’ strike, the non-cooperation movement, Bardoli satyagraha, Dandi march and his last days in Bihar and Noakhali.

Champaran satyagraha

The Non-cooperation Movement of year 1920-1922 was the first Mass Movement started by Mahatma Gandhi. First mass movement of Gandhi’s was Champaran Satyagraha in the year of 1917 which happened in Champaran district of Bihar. It played a major role in India’s Independence. It was started against of Rowlatt act.

Role of Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi’s visit in 1917 marked the beginning of the Champaran Movement against the Indigo planters. The district officials ordered him to comply the orders and started the Satyagraha. IT WAS VICTORY FOR GANDHI

Gandhi’s thought on politics

He followed moderate techniques of prayers and petitions in the struggle against racial discrimination. He focused on non-violence and truth.

Gandhian view on society

He supported the VARNA system without the elements of hierarchical occupation, he was against the caste system, emphasised on Hindu-Muslim unity.

Gandhian techniques of mass Mobilisation

Gandhi’s first great experiment in Satyagraha came in 1917 in Champaran where the peasants were forced by the European planters to grow indigo on at least 3/20th of their land and sell it at prices fixed by the planters. In 1918, Gandhiji intervened in a dispute between the workers and owners of Ahmadabad. It was here that he used the weapon of hunger strike and won for the workers a 35% increase in wages. In 1918, the Kheda peasant struggle involved

Gandhiji and Sardar Vallabhai Patel. These three significant struggles brought Gandhiji in close contact with the masses. The 1917 sedition Committee headed by justice Rowlatt led to the passing of Rowlatt Act (1919). Where by the committee made recommendations to arm the government with powers to suppress all unlawful and dangerous activities. Called the Black Act, it was widely opposed.

Along with other nationalists, Gandhiji was also aroused and in February 1919, he founded the Satyagraha Sabha whose members took a pledge to disobey the Act and thus to court arrest and imprisonment. March and April 1919 witnessed a remarkable political awakening in India. Gandhiji gave a call for an All-India hartal on 6th April 1919. The people responded with great enthusiasm.

The Jallianwalav Bagh massacre at Amritsar on 13th April 1919, on the order of General Dyer stunned the whole nation. The unarmed crowd had gathered at the Bagh in defiance of the ban on public meeting to protest against the arrest of their popular leaders Dr. Satyapal. Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest.

The khilafat and the non-cooperation movement (1919-22)

The main object of the Khilafat movement was to force the British government to change its attitude towards Turkey and restore the Turkish Sultan to his former position. A Khilafat committee was formed under the leadership of Ali brothers, Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani and a country wide agitation was organised. In February 1920, Gandhiji suggested to the Khilafat committee to adopt a programme of non-violent non-cooperation to protest the government behaviour.

On 9 June, 1920 the khilafat committee at Allahabad unanimously accepted his suggestion and asked Gandhiji to lead the movement. The congress leaders, including Gandhiji viewed the Khilafat agitation as a golden opportunity for cementing the Hindu-Muslim unity and bringing the Muslim unity and bringing the Muslim masses into the national movement.

The positive programmes of the non-cooperation movement included establishment of national schools and colleges, setting up of panchayats, popularisation of swadeshi and Khadi, development of hindu-muslim unity, removal of untouchability, etc. This decision of non-cooperation movement was endorsed at the annual session of the Congress held at Nagpur in December 1920 The Nagpur session also made changes in the constitution.

Gandhiji was afraid that the movement might take a violent turn and it has insistence the congress working committee on 12 February abruptly called off the movement. Gandhiji was arrested on 10 March 1922 but was released in February 1924.

Significance of non-cooperation movement

- The Indian Nationalist movement acquired real mass base for the first time with the participation of peasants, workers, students, lawyers, teachers, etc.
- The congress became the organiser and leader of the masses in their freedom struggle.
- It marked the height of Hindu-Muslim unity.

Civil disobedience movement

Civil Disobedience (1930-31)

Phase I:

Civil disobedience of the laws of the unjust and tyrannical government is a strong and extreme form of political agitation according to Gandhi, which should be adopted only as a last resort. The Lahore congress of 1929 had authorised the Working committee to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes. The committee also invested Gandhi with full powers to launch the movement. The movement now spread rapidly. Violation of salt laws all over the country was soon followed by defiance of forest laws in Maharashtra, Karnataka and the Central Provinces and refusal to pay the rural Chaukidari tax in Eastern India.

Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed in march 1931 due to the efforts of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. Jayakar and others to bring about a compromise between the government and agreed to withdraw all ordinances and end prosecutions, release all political prisoners, restore the confiscated property of the Satyagrahis and permitted the free collection or manufacture of salt. The congress in turn agreed to suspend the civil disobedience movement and to participate in the second Round-Table conference.

Phase II of Civil Disobedience Movement:(1932-34)

On his return to India after 2nd Round Table Conference Gandhiji resumed the Civil Disobedience Movement in January 1932. The Congress was declared illegal by the government and it arrested most of the leading Congress leaders. The movement was gaining strength when it was suddenly side tracked with the announcement of Communal Award (1932) by the British Prime-Minister.

Significance of civil disobedience movement

- It had the objective of achieving complete independence.
- It involved deliberate violation of law and was evidently more militant.
- There was wide participation of women.
- It was not marked by the same Hindu-Muslim unity which was witnessed during Non- cooperation Movement.

Quit India movement (1942)

The failure of the Cripps Mission, rising prices and war time shortages and the Japanese threat forced the congress to take active steps to compel the British for accepting the Indian demand for independence. The All-India Congress Committee met at Bombay on 8 August 1942 and passed the famous 'QUIT-INDIA' Resolution. It proposed the starting of a non-violent mass struggle under Gandhi's leadership to achieve this aim. The people took to violent action authority The police stations, post-offices, railway stations, etc. In some areas such as Ballia in eastern U.K, Tumluk in Midnapore district of Bengal and Satara district of Maharashtra the revolutionary set up 'parallel government'. In general, the students, workers and peasants provided the backbone of the 'revolt' while the upper classes and the bureaucracy remained loyal to the government. In the end, the government succeeded in crushing the movement.

Conclusion

Gandhi played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of India. His non-violent ways and peaceful methods were the

foundation for gaining Independence from the British. He emphasised on "non-violence", "truth". He mobilised the people from all groups and believe in Hindu-Muslim unity. In the Dandi march it was the first time that women also came out from their house.

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