

# Study of peaceful Journalism in Gandhiji's Perspective

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**Abstract—** Journalism was the factor that transformed ordinary Gandhi into Mahatma Gandhi. He was not only a political leader, but he was also a journalist to the core. He was the editor of three English weeklies. Many facets of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the great personalities and leaders ever have been brought out through his very honest writing. Gandhi showed the path of developing and strengthening the communication system in society by the media, the intelligentsia and the conscience-keepers of society. Gandhi was clear in his mind that war or peace would have its roots basically in the heart and head before they manifest outwardly. As for the word "PEACE" Gandhi used it in a normal sense as "mental peace" on one side and as "absence of conflicts and wars or warlike situation on the other. Going deep into the problem of conflicts and wars Gandhi realized that the individuals as individuals or as groups, should pay attention to their inner-calling that benefit them to be human and humane. Gandhi's journal carried articles on a variety of subjects written by him and others ranging from the spinning-wheel to the most important political problem of the day. Gandhi's work in journalism had a strong influence not only on every newspaper in but also on the entire literary world of every language in India. Gandhi's resistance campaign in South Africa was conceptualized, introduced and mobilized through the efficacy and eloquence of the press. The functional worth of his use of journalism as an instrument of protest and identity construction is well exhibited in the formation of homogenous reality for South African Indians and awakening and consolidating them to firmly stand for their rights. He said "Truth alone is God" and nothing else is. Gandhian Journalism has relevance even today and journalists in the media establishments must bear them in mind when they are working. He also said that courage of conviction and truth telling are the

**Index Terms—** Journalism, Communication, literary, influence and resistance

## I. INTRODUCTION

Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi was an effective communicator and was brave and fluent with his words. It was his mass oriented journalism that he reached out to millions of people and influenced them of his cause and it can be said that journalism was the factor that transform Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi. The analysis of the newspaper that Gandhi was associated with clearly suggest that it was his communication skills that spread awareness, talked for a common man, focused on the welfare of society and ultimately made him Mahatma. The weeklies Gandhi ran and edited are a treasure to learn the art of free, fair and ethics based journalism. Apart from journalistic skills, his newspapers are the best source to

know Gandhi's managerial skills, and commitment to get things done in larger and broader perspectives. As Sushri Radha Bhatt says, "Mahatma Gandhi's sole purpose of journalism was to serve the society at a large scale and it was his mass oriented approach and ethics based journalism that inspires and guides the journalists of all times." Throughout his life Gandhi made efforts to sustain the doctrine of faith. He never sought for a short term sight on anything. He never cared for rapid or impressive success. He followed a steady and sure process with a straight forward objective. To him means were as important as ends. Moreover, truth was God for him. He could not negotiate away truth for anything.

## II. OBJECTIVES

- To discover the worth and moral values of journalism accomplished by Gandhi
- To find out the significance of Gandhian perception of journalism
- To explore the opportunities and challenges of Gandhian model of journalism

## III. AIM OF GANDHIAN WRITING

- For brotherhood amongst differing religions, castes, sects groups and ethnicities,
- For an end to untouchability and caste discrimination,
- For the economic self-sufficiency of the nation, promising self reliance in each village called as GramaSwaraj
- For the alleviation of poverty, supporting the helpless people
- For the liberation of women through empowerment
- For swaraj the independence of India from British colonial domination

## IV. GANDHIAN' JOURNALS

He was associated with six journals Indian opinion, Young India, Navjeevan, Harijanbandhu, Harijan, & Harijansewak

- His first paper was Indian opinion This was started in South Africa. He wanted to mobilize public opinion against apartheid rules in South Africa.
- He used newspapers to publish his opinions later he started giving interviews in appears he wrote letters to editors
- But the political campaign which he was having fell short of his expectation & hence he thought of starting his own paper
- Indian opinion was thus started in 1903. It was a weekly newsletter Indian community in South Africa was made aware of the problems of Indian laborers & civilians through this paper.

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- It was not only a newspaper it served as a medium of educating masses. He wrote on education sanitation cleanliness, self discipline, & good citizenship. (Gupta. V.S. -Mahatma Gandhi and Mass Media- Bombay Sarvodayamandal & Gandhi research foundation, Bombay ) 6. In his biography, My Experiments with Truth: 'Indian Opinion... was a part of my life. Week after week I poured out my soul in its columns and expounded the principles and practice of Satyagraha as I understood it. During 10 years that is until 1914 accepting the intervals of my enforced rest in prison there was hardly an issue of 'Indian Opinion' without an article from me. I cannot recall a word in these articles set down without thought or deliberation or word of conscious exaggeration, or anything merely to please. Indeed the journal became for me training in self restraint and for friends a medium through which to keep in touch with my thoughts."
- He was of the opinion, 'Newspapers are meant primarily to educate the people. They make the latter familiar with contemporary history. This is a work of no mean responsibility. It is a fact, however, that readers cannot always trust newspapers. Often facts are found to be quite the opposite of what has been reported. If newspapers realized that it was their duty to educate the people, they could not but wait to check a report before publishing it. It is true that often they have to work under difficult conditions. They have to sift the true from the false in a short time and can only guess at the truth. Even then, I am of the opinion that it is better not to publish a report at all if it has not been found possible to verify it.'
- Indian opinion became a great medium of his political struggle in South Africa. It aroused people to think of their rights
- He used paper to educate masses. He thought education would give them the power to reason.
- He believed that the sole aim of journalism should be to serve people, serve country & sacrifice everything for the service of the nation.

#### V. GANDHI'S BASIC ISSUES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

In his voluminous writings, Gandhi touched or dwelt upon myriad issues of interpersonal, intergroup and individual-group relations that affected society and called for reform and even revolutionary change in the structure, institutions, processes and value orientations of society. Although his perspective was Universalist in nature, his point of departure was the contemporary Indian situation. Social change in India constituted his immediate goal and priority. In the pursuit of this objective, he fashioned a programme of social reconstruction that evolved from his experiences and experiments in various areas of social life in a kind of trial and error process. He was deeply conscious of the inertial drag of tradition as well as the natural propensities of man to pursue narrow and immediate interests and dominate his fellow beings. The central feature of Gandhi's thought is that it is man centred, not system centred. Its premise is the moral autonomy of man and the possibility of his lasting liberation

from his own lower self and the impersonal and compelling dictates of the structure of society. The ideal social order is that which gives man the opportunity to realize his moral autonomy and encourages him always to exercise this autonomy in an enlightened manner that is conducive to individual and collective well-being. The movement from the existing imperfect state of man and society towards perfection requires the inculcation of certain fundamental values by man along with the establishment of social instrumentalities, which will promote and ensure the perennial primacy of these values. However, Gandhi postulates the inseparability of 'ends' (values) and 'means' (instrumentalities) that is the dialectical unity of cause and effect. Therefore, a logical discrimination between values and instrumentalities is not possible – nor even desirable – in his thought.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

Mahatma Gandhi and his lettering kept the Indian spirit to freedom at a high level. People got educated and motivated through his writing across the world to indulge in service. Therefore, the writings itself became a public occupation which many citizens found a commendable career to appoint in.

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