

MAHATMA GANDHI'S CONCEPT OF GRAM SWARAJYA - THE FOUNDATION OF A SELF-RELIANT INDIA

Dr. Supekar Vaishali Prashant

Department of Political science, Annasaheb Awate college, Manchar.

Introduction

In 1991, at the rate of globalization in India, the doors of the internal market were opened to all the countries of the world. Culture and human relations have not been taken into consideration in the modern economic policies of the world. It is necessary for every country to adopt an economic policy that will suit each country. It is against this backdrop that the 'Self-Reliant India' scheme was launched in India in May 2020. He advocated the concept of 'Vocal for Local'. Every Indian should insist on Indian manufactured goods and services. First of all, insist on the purchase of goods produced in your village, if the goods produced in the village are not available, then insist on the purchase of goods within the taluka, district, state and country. Such a study has been attempted from a historical point of view.

Objectives

- 1) To study the scheme of self-reliant India.
- 2) To study the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts.
- 3) To understand the meaning of Swaraj and self-rule.

Research Methodology

Secondary data are used in this research paper.

Meaning of Swaraj

Mahatma Gandhiji borrows the concept of Swaraj from Vedas; Swaraj means self-rule and self-control. True freedom is the observance of moral law, The law of inner conscience and one's true existence. It motivates a person to search Good and get it, a character who is the end. Freedom is self-control, victory over it What can be achieved by being fearless. It includes tough discipline and One must keep the promise of self-purification and self-realization. He is through Active participation and participation of the individual in the day to day affairs of the society Salvation or salvation is achieved. Gandhi insists on the need for rationality and synthesis. The desire in an integrated life to attain moral heights to be different from human beings. Another meaning of brutal self-government is moral and spiritual freedom or powerlessness. Comes as a result of willpower and reason which leads to concentration of energy. (Young India-1926)

Gandhiji thought that Swaraj is a positive concept of freedom. It is the consent of people for the Government of India. Gandhi in the Hind Swaraj (1909) told the Italian example point out that for victor Emanuel, Cavour and Garibaldi. 'Italy meant the king of Italy and his henchmen' whereas for Mazzini, it meant the whole of the Italian people, that is, its agriculturalists. Mazzini's ideal remained unrealized and that Italy still remained in a 'state of slavery'. Merely replacing the British rulers with their Indian counterparts is Englishstan and not Hindustan, an "English rule without the Englishman, the tiger's nature, but not the tiger" (1997, ch. IV). The main features of Swaraj is the service for the common people in the society. Mahatma Gandhi & # 39; s concept of village self-government encompasses every factor affecting any policy-making process. His concept can be a vehicle for socio-political change in contemporary rural India. Freedom from bondage or restraint does not mean permanent Tilangali at all. Gandhiji said that this kind of self-government could not come if only a few people got the rights. In an article written in 1942, he wrote that if economic and political power were concentrated in one place, there was a danger of violating the basic principles of self-government.

The following points can be considered while explaining Gandhiji's concept of Gramswarajya.

A) Self-reliance on basic necessities- Gramswarajya was at the heart of Gandhiji's thinking from India's economic development point of view. This will provide employment to all in the village and also stop the migration from the village to the cities in search of better opportunities.

Prof. Bharti Patil said, "The rulers should bring Gandhiji's concept of Gramswarajya " (February 4, 2019) In his speech, he said that Mahatma Gandhi's concept of rural development should be brought into existence by the rulers

B) Village Industries - In the case of village industries, Gandhiji was thinking that in ancient India, villages were economically prosperous. However, due to industrialization, small scale industries and cottage industries in the village have been decimated. Together the villages will become self-reliant. This will lead to the development of the country.

C) Protection and Mechanization of Indigenous Industries- Gandhiji feels that industrialization has done injustice to the industries and businesses in the village.

D) Swadeshi Policy- Gandhiji's idea of Swadeshi is very important. It is Swadeshi to use the products made by our own people in our own country. The process of living is complete. So Gandhiji always insists on Swadeshi.

When Gandhiji thought about Swaraj, he believes that an Indian village will have intelligent people who will guide about Rights, Duties and their needs. All the men and women will contribute the all over development of villages. He envisioned the sustainable development of village. Independence will begin with the bottom. This does not exclude dependence on and willing help from neighbours or from the world. It will be a free and voluntary play of mutual forces (Garg & Raut) In this structure composed of innumerable villages, there will be ever-widening, never-ascending circles. Growth will not be a pyramid with the apex sustained by the bottom. But it will be an oceanic circle whose centre will be the individual. Therefore, the outermost circumference will not wield power to crush the inner circle but will give strength to all within and derive its own strength from it.

Self-Reliant India

When the all-world suffering from Pandemic, India plans to convert this crisis into an opportunity its fight by becoming Self-Reliant India or Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Mahatma Gandhi dreamed for self -Reliant India. His thinking on village life was vividly described in a lucid manner. Gandhiji's idea of Gram Swaraj has been explained in his writings in Harijan in 1942. (Gandhi 1937) Self -Reliant India stressed that it is time to become vocal for our local products and make them global. Under this campaign, a special economic package has been released by the government, which will benefit various segments including cottage industry, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), labourers, middle class, and industries. There is a need to build national economy to implement the principle of self-reliance which will stand on its own feet serving own people. This economy should be built on own resources, efforts and strength of the country. The use of national resources in a rational and integrated way will help in building productive resources thus improving living standard of the people at the same time making the foundations solid for socialism by increasing the military, economic and social power of the country (Deepak Agnihotri)

Self -Reliant India is based on or influenced by the thought of Gandhiji on Gram Swaraj. Prime minister of India Narendra Modi describes that the 'magnificent building of Self-reliant India' will stand on five pillars such as Economy, Infrastructure, System, Demography and Demand. While announcing the economic package with a new resolution to boost the Athma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self Reliant India Campaign), he made the declaration of around INR 20 lakh crores which will be about 10 percent of India's GDP(y K Gireesan and JosChathukulam)

Conclusion

In the current wave of globalization, our country has come a long way in embracing the goals and strategies of globalization. Of course, it was and is a need of the hour. But their main objective was and is to develop the country. The main core of that plan is found in these thoughts of Gandhiji. "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is a teaching of our Indian culture. Around 1991-92, India signed the WTO agreement and the world of trade was opened to Indians. At the same time, trade was fully opened with few exceptions. But at the same time, we became dependent on other countries. It is still there today. In May 2020, India raised the slogan of self-reliance and all the world's attention was drawn to it, but the subject is very old. It takes time for this concept of Swadeshi to be brought in a new form.

References

1. Chathukulam, Jos., Kumar, Jeevan., and Gireesan, K. (2018). Exploring the Ideas of JC Kumarappa on Decentralization, Green Economy and Alternative Development in India, *Gandhi Marg*, 39(4), p.265.
2. Gandhi, M.K. (1937). *Harijan*, Vol. 64, 9 Jan 1937, pp. 217-218.
3. Bobad Bhujang- *Globlization and Insight of Gandhi's thought*, *AAyushi International Journal*, ISSN-2349-638x, Special issue- 69.
4. Sayyad Nisar Karin- *The Immortal thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi Applicable in 21st century*, *AAyushi International Journal*, ISSN-2349-638x, Special issue- 69.
5. Gandhi, M.K. (1941), Letter to Munnalal Shah, Vol. 73, 4 April 1941, p.421
6. Pandit, Vasant Raj. (Ed.) (2002), *Collected Speeches by Deen Dayal Upadhyay on Integral Humanism*, New Delhi: Deendayal Research Institute.
7. Chatterjee, M., *Gandhi's Religious Thought*, London, Macmillan, 1983.
8. Bose, N. K., *Studies in Gandhism*, Ahmedabad, Navajivan Publishing House, 1972.