



to the city based economy. Under the name of civilization there was a large scale mechanization of the farming and other industries. The village people began to face the unemployment and lost their jobs. There was migration from the villages to cities in search of jobs which also became difficult to get after a few years. This led to increase in the poverty not only in villages but also in the cities.

Gandhiji sensed all this during his travel through the rural India. He was convinced that the only solution to this problem is to revert back to the village based economy. This will not only save the villages but also cities from getting ruined.

In this way the concept of khadi and the village industries was born. Production of Khadi involves cotton growing, picking, ginning, cleaning, carding, slivering, spinning, sizing, dying, preparing the wrap and the woof, weaving, and washing. Every one of the processes can effectively be handled in the villages.

Though the village industries are different as compared to khadi when it comes to the large scale implementation they are supportive to khadi. These industries involve certain skilled and unskilled workers from the villages. The industries include hand grinding, hand pounding, soap making, paper making, match making, tanning, oil pressing. The industries according to Gandhiji should use the raw material available in the villages themselves. By doing this the dependency on the foreign products will be overcome and all of us will develop a national taste for the products in the villages helping all of us.

Appropriate Technology

Gandhiji advocated the use of technology appropriately. He knew that Indian has a vast number of unemployed populations hence he was against the use of machinery for production. This according to him will add up to existing number of unemployed people. The mass production if required should be done by the masses and not the machines. In case the machines are unavoidable then only such machines which will not do the pollution and will be simple to make, handle and repaired should be used. As far as possible machines



opposition of the society to the widow remarriages. Because of all these reasons the girl child is not looked after as affectionately as a boy.

Gandhiji therefore throughout his life fought against the dowry system, he encouraged the women education in all his ashrams and in the concept of Nai Talim, he accepted the women co workers in satyagraha struggle and showed the world even girls can fight as equals to men and set an example to include them in other works as well. He always encouraged the widow remarriages so that the widows can shed their weak image and come out as strong individuals. The word weaker sex for the girls was not acceptable to Gandhiji.

Woman Awakening in the Freedom Struggle

Satyagraha movement had brought the Indian women out of their darkness and ignorance in a very short span of time. The women according to Gandhiji should be given an equal share along with the men in every sphere of life. Woman in fact is the true helpmate of man in the service to humanity. Satyagraha movement saw the emergence of powerful women leaders like Kasturba, Sarojini Naidu, Dr. Sushila Nayyar and Indira Gandhi.

According to Gandhiji men have not realized this truth and considered themselves as the lords and masters of woman instead of considering themselves as their friends and coworkers. This has created an inferiority complex in women who do not dare to do the things which men perform. According to Gandhiji it is the duty of every congressman to see that the women enable themselves to realize their full status and play their parts as equals of man.

This should be started from their own homes by treating their wives as honored comrades in common service rather than treating them as mere dolls. Those who have not received the education should be given the education imparting them with the political and social knowledge.

The status of the women in the Indian society is bad and according to Gandhiji it requires radical change.

Education in Health and Hygiene

According to Gandhiji village sanitation and health and hygiene are not one and the same subjects. Health and hygiene

purchased, gifted or the stolen property though the end result was acquiring of the watch. Depending on the purity of the end result the purity of the means used will differ.

Similarly Gandhiji says that we may obtain the independence the end result by various ways even the violent ways but then the type or the purity of the independence obtained will differ. The independence obtained by using the violent ways will not last long and even that is evident from the history neither the people advocating the violence will be able to give better governance to the country in the future.

Because of this Gandhiji had based all his satyagrahas and the struggles on the principles of truth, non violence and love so that the result obtained was pure and everlasting.

Thus Gandhiji not only theoretically but also practically also proved the fact of purity of ends and means.

DISCUSS IN BRIEF THE SALIENT ISSUES GANDHIJI HAS RAISED IN HIND SWARAJ

(Long answer question: 12 marks: 1994, 1998)

‘Hind Swaraj’ or ‘Indian Home Rule’ is the book which is a compilation of Gandhiji’s conversations with the reader who is the supporter of view of using of the violence to obtain the independence. Gandhiji gradually explains his own ideology and at the same time try to pacify the reader with various arguments. The book though small gives a substantial idea regarding the Gandhian philosophy and views on various important aspects.

The views are expressed on the following subjects.

THE CONGRESS AND ITS OFFICIALS AND THE HOME RULE

According to Gandhiji the home rule is not just obtaining the independence but preparing ourselves for the independence. For getting the independence one has to prove worthy of it. According to Gandhiji the stand of congress and many of its senior leaders like Dadabhai Nauroji is misunderstood as a sign of weakness but Gandhiji says that one has to keep patience in this regard and should not be impatient in obtaining the complete independence from the British and before doing that we should strengthen ourselves with self sufficiency, education and integrity.

THE PARTITION OF BENGAL

According to Gandhiji the real awakening in the Indian people took place during the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon. British thought that the Indians will not be able to oppose the partition of Bengal. But people of Bengal gave such a stern struggle against the partition that even the British government was also taken by surprise. The partition had to be cancelled. It was a major triumph for the Indians. According to Gandhiji the people learned that the petitions should be backed by the force to win over the British. They also came to know the importance of the sufferings those are to be endured for the success in any struggle. The concept of Swadeshi also was spread during the struggle.

DISCONTENT AND UNREST

The discontent and the unrest developed due to the partition of Bengal was essential to build the foundation for the larger struggle for Indian independence from the British rule.

WHAT IS SWARAJ?

Explaining the concept of Swaraj Gandhiji says that just driving out of the British from India is not Swaraj it is the upliftment of the poorest of the poor in the society from the bondage of poverty and ignorance should be considered as Swaraj. Thus Gandhiji was of the opinion that the process of obtaining the Swaraj should not be sudden the common people should be ready for it and thus one should keep patience and strengthen the people before getting the independence from the British. The Swaraj thus obtained will only be long lasting.

THE CONDITION OF ENGLAND

According to Gandhiji the condition of England was not good but pathetic. Under the name of democracy and industrialization the country was heading towards the destruction. The parliament was a place just to waste the time on unnecessary talks where large amount of money was spent on the discussion from which nothing fruitful comes out.

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