



Seeking harmony, following the footsteps of Gandhi

SAJAD AHMAD SHEIKH

Registration No: 28719157

Department of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Shri JaghdishPrasad Jhabarmal Tibrewala University

Jhunjhunu Rajasthan, India, 333001

ABSTRACT:

Modernization has brought about many changes in the socio-cultural arena of life, worldwide. With the advent of science and technology, life has become so much easy, in every nook and corner of the world. The leaders of some of the great economies and corporates have devised policies, so many in number, that could make life so much sophisticated, but complex. The last century has given the world many things to cheer about, but at the same time, it has made life miserable too. Prophecies made by ancient greats about the immoral practices during the hard times came to be true, as the life of a human being is just a stray bullet away. Radiations, pollution, market, pandemics, and joblessness add to many other miseries that have come in the form of physical and biological warfare and violence. Besides this, political and social instability adds to the miseries of this list, as there have been disparities and discrimination in the name of religion, sex, color, and caste too.

Keywords:- Modernization, Instability, Freedom, Leadership, Non-violence.

Introduction:

Peace and harmony are two distinct values amongst the various universal human values that need to be developed among the human kind, across the globe. As of now, these concepts are given less importance in education and its prospectus. Globally, there are skirmishes, qualms, violence, frictional conduct, based on political, racial, religious, and ethnic factors which make a negative impact on the humanity. In the contemporary world, the main target of masses should be to help people to develop themselves as global citizens, who can make continuous efforts for building one peaceful and melodious world. There is a need of learning to live together with peace and harmony, and all this can be achieved through human efforts only. Seeking global harmony and peace is the only way to 'lead by example,' as this slant has already been employed by many a few well lettered and globally accepted leaders.

Some of the distinct contributors to this cause are :

- 1 Martin Luther King Jr
- 2 Nelson Mandela
- 3 Cesar Chavez

Martin Luther King Jr :-

Popularly known as ‘The King,’ Luther was one of the strongest advocates of peace. He has been an inspiration globally, for the millions of those who seek peace and ask the world leaders to cause an end to the human sufferings. However, King himself was inspired by Gandhi, who is considered to be the pioneer of peace among his nobles and cliques. Both the leaders, Gandhi and King, are equivocally of the opinion that human sufferings are because of the arising situations like war, poverty, and violence.

Martin Luther King, being a theologian (Personalism), reflected often on his understanding of non-violence, as his theology states that all persons possess infinite, inviolable dignity. His own inscribe, “pilgrimage to non-violence” in his first book, ‘Stride Toward Freedom’, and quite a few another inscriptions in the form of articles and published books, “True pacifism,” or “nonviolent resistance,” King wrote, is “a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love” (King, Stride, 80). In all the senses of understanding, King believed that “the Christian doctrine of love operating through the Gandhian method of non-violence was one of the most potent weapons available to oppressed people in their struggle for freedom” (King, Stride, 79; Papers 5:422). Besides making history, in the development of peace in that part of land, Martin Luther King, Jr., has also had a great impact of his deep family roots in the African-American Baptist church, few of his formative experiences in his hometown of Atlanta, and his theological studies. He also had some sort of inspiration from the varied models of religious and political leadership, and his extensive network of contacts in the peace and social justice movements of his time.

For his untired and remarkable contributions in the field of civil rights, where he tirelessly worked with a motive to cause the sufferings of people to end, King is remembered for his achievements and for the methods he used, particularly non-violence. Martin Luther king, at an early age had been an inspiration to millions of people across the globe, besides inspiring so many of the 20th century’s major diversified developments. He was a man of honor and words despite living a life of 39 small numbers of age.

Social justice movements and non-violence are the cream of his works and inscribes, which had a long lasting influence on social justice movements everywhere. All this legacy of the King started when the king was an Undergraduate at Morehouse College in Atlanta. It was the incidence of the King reading Henry Thoreau’s “Essay on Civil Disobedience,” from where the King learnt one of the most important lessons of his life, resistance as a path to success against an unruly and unjust government by means of non-violent methods. This inscribe could also be helpful in most parts of the world where there is injustice in the name of color and creed, especially among the Black people in the America, where Black Afro-Americans were subjected to severe torture, and lynching and killing would happen on daily basis, especially on those who challenged white supremacy. The practical reasons for non-violence were also understood by the Martin king. He understood the fact that in this case for American Blacks, who appeared to be in minority and that the Southern Whites had the local and the

Police backing, violence could be the dead end. Therefore, in order to save the precious black minority lives, it was more important for the King to go the non-violent way. Besides, violence could have had a backlash, and 'Civil Rights Movement' could have come to an end. King Luther, therefore found the non-violence as the best possible solution to sow the seeds of love and peace.

Nelson Mandela

It was Nelson Mandela, who had dreamt of freedom, like the most of the Blacks in Africa, and this dream proved to be costly on many fronts for him, until he got what he tried for. This quest for freedom took Mandela from one pole of struggling to the royal palace of African continent's richest and one of the most diverse countries. Nelson Mandela changed the outlook of the nation as well as the rest of the world, after a so long struggle that made him the most valuable person in the country at that time, and became father of the nation, an international icon, and a legendary figure. His struggle, however genuine, but was too difficult for one to even think about. An ocean of obstacles came his way and tried to stop him. Mandela came back stronger after every threat and obstacle and kept the spirit alive and never gave up. However, Mandela used the peaceful way of demonstration. It was a Non-violent movement. Mandela showed the world the way to rise above the struggles, never lose, and achieve our dreams. To most of the philosophers across the globe, Mandela and peace are synonymous. For the way he achieved greatness, without disturbing the flora of the human society, Nelson Mandela was awarded the 'Nobel Peace Prize', in the year 1993. Mandela spent his whole life fighting for the rights of people, education, political rights, and for equal opportunities to all. Mandela became of the most recognized icons of the 20th century and became a symbol of human rights, for his approach to the freedom struggle. It was the non-violence that showered on him the blessings that he got, as he stood up against the tide. Nelson Mandela has always expressed his support for the social cause and was an advocate of social and human rights.

Cesar Chavez

Cesar Chavez, one of the most iconic figures of America, was treated as a hero and a symbol of hope for many millions living Americans, even today. It was the year 1962, when Chavez, along with a few of his friends and well-wishers set on a mission to organize a union of farm workers, about which every second person they met told them that they were going out on an impossible ride. Fate with them, the group succeeded in its mission and critics were left tongue bitten, in a state of wondering.

Cesar Chavez was an advocate of non-violence, who propounded it on every front of his career and struggle. That made him one of the most iconic leaders of the 20th century, who fought for labor rights, maintained the principle of non-violence, and gained popularity and influencing millions far beyond the Californian fields. Following in the footsteps of many modern day greats, Chavez kept sticking to the non-violent resistance, as practiced by Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr, Chavez was the founder of "**National Farm Workers Association**," which later went on to become 'United Farm Workers of America'. This went on very neatly and won very important victories to improve the working conditions for farm workers and raise wages and pay, in the late 1960's and 70's. Chavez brought about changes in the arena of labor reforms and changed the fate of agricultural workers.

Before these reforms were made, the workers were exploited by their employers and all this used to happen to them on daily basis.

Chavez himself was a farmworker and was subjected to all this, like his fellow beings. This routine exploitation would often result in atrocities like labors were often unpaid their dues, and were living a life full of slavery, as was done in the ancient Egyptian tales, with little or no access to basic facilities, like medicine, healthcare, proper shelter and clothing, and good nutritious food. They were left with no choice other than raising a united voice in order to improve their status and position. Chavez lead them by example, and inspired many in the world through non-violent struggle that gained them the rights. This was done through continuous marches, strikes, and boycotts. After this continuous struggle, employers were forced to pay adequate wages to farmers and provide other benefits that could help labors with their needs. For his role in non-violent struggle and commitment to justice for workers, as well as for dedicating his whole career to the farm workers, Chavez was posthumously awarded the highest civilian honor, i-e the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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