



GANDHIAN LEADERSHIP: A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE THAT LIGHTS THE PATH OF MANY

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



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Abstract

M K Gandhi was a mass leader whose power, even though subtle and nil, but authority was enormous. His approach and style of action were very unique. To attain the cause of universal humanism, Mahatma practised nonviolence and passive resistance, both of which are still followed as effective tools in a democratic system. He believed that the human race forms a solitary mighty web, and every human being must understand this simple note because the shadows of the past are the promise of the future. This paper mainly considers the valuable leadership lessons that can be learnt from Gandhiji, which prove useful in today's time, when humanity has almost taken a back step. A broad review of the research on leadership shows that there is a dearth in an epistemological paradigm of leadership with which we can make full sense of Gandhian leadership. The full sagacity of Gandhian achievement, if fully comprehended, gives credence to build a theory on leadership.

Keywords: *Leadership, Non-violence, Peace, Humanity, Patience and Consistency*

Introduction

The human races form a single powerful web. The task of man today becomes the task of protecting and restoring humanist regimes. But to attain this, people must first recognise and develop awareness of these arrangements because the shadow of the past is the promise of the future. No tree can be greater than the power contained in its seed. Such is the essence of Indian philosophy reflected in the life and work of Gandhi, a great philosopher and the father of our nation. The message of the idea has deeply inspired intellectuals in India even today. People hailed him as the nation's leader and torchbearer. Although Mahatma Gandhi is hailed as a nationalist leader, it is not recognised that we can learn valuable leadership lessons from him, lessons that can also be useful. at the corporate or other organisational level, and in everyday life, to run the state affairs. This article is supposed to see what we can learn from him on this matter. It approaches this task by placing Gandhi in the context of dealing with leadership in managerial and administrative thought. An overview of such treatment, followed by a brief account of Gandhi's life, will allow us to appreciate his leadership style. It is perhaps more relevant than ever, as the worldwide state relations of multiple sectors are under pressure to combine efficiency and ethics, success and service.

Gandhi's Life

Perhaps the proverb, morning shows the day and child shows the man is ferreted out by assessing Gandhi's life and works. He was a man of order. He didn't preach anything that he didn't practice in his own life. Let us now briefly consider Gandhi's life as a picture painted in words into our eyes. Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat, India. Although he went through the rebellious phase of his adolescence, throughout his life, he carried some of the teachings of his original faith, including the principle of not harming human sentient beings. It was during this time that Gandhi was exposed to many original ideas, first reading the Bhagavad-Gita and the Bible. And in the very first stage of his career, when he received a contract offer from an Indian company in Natal, South Africa, he gladly accepted it. In Africa, Gandhi suffered from unhumanised kind of racial prejudice. Immediately after arriving in Africa, he had to take a train from Durban to Pretoria, and when the train reached Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal, he was expelled from the first-class cabin he was travelling in for racial reasons, even though he already had a valid ticket. He spends a cold night in a train station waiting room, wondering if he should return to India or stay to fight the disease of apartheid. He decided to stay; in fact, he still hadn't signed the original one-year contract. In 1894, he founded the Natal Indian National Congress. Gandhi eventually remained in South Africa until 1914, but was interrupted in 1901. There, he became a public figure who developed his own form of public activism, founding Trang Phoenix Farm and Leo Tolstoy Farm near Johannesburg. Leo Tolstoy influenced Gandhi by the Kingdom of God within us, and, in turn, he appreciated it. In the last year of his life, he wrote to Gandhi, addressing his form of public protest, which he believed was a

matter of paramount importance, not only for India but also for all of humanity. When he returned to India in 1915, the form of public protest he had developed in South Africa and what he called Satyagraha, the force of truth, would be on full display. He was arrested, along with many people across the country. The country is now on the road to Purna Swaraj, to full freedom, as it is claimed that submitting to British rule, which has ruined India in every way, is a “crime against humanity” and against God. A wave of civil disobedience was launched in 1932 in response to the repressive measures introduced. Then, in 1934, at a turning point for Gandhi, he not only resigned as leader but also resigned from the Congress Party. He believes that there should be “construction work” that has been overlooked. He has devoted himself to the development of Indian villages. However, with the outbreak of World War II and all attempts to obtain satisfactory assurances from the British of the Indian aspirations, Gandhi voiced opposition to the British presence in the country. India. The famous “Quit India” resolution was passed in 1942, followed by a call for mass struggle. This led to persecutions when Gandhi and other leaders were arrested. The British were then faced with a massive explosive situation on a scale they had not foreseen. On the other hand, with the Labour Party’s victory in Britain in 1945, India’s path to freedom was wide open. India gained freedom in 1947, although not an intact India that did. Gandhi opposed the division and the basic idea of Hindus and Muslims in the subcontinent forming two nations. He opposes community riots that break out with all the evil. He did not enter into negotiations with the British that had been going on since 1945. Instead, he worked in the villages of Bengal and Bihar as well as in the troubled slums of Calcutta, beating bet his head for a change of heart and community harmony.

The Landscape of Leadership

The greatest leaders in the world are known by many for the way they live their own lives. Both personally and professionally, a true leader is followed because followers believe the story the leader’s actions tell. This is especially true of the leadership and actions of Mahatma Gandhi. People of many nationalities, classes and communities have followed Gandhi’s example for his way of life. He conveys his peaceful ideas with grace and charisma, with which he captures all kinds of people with his every word. He lives his own life in this peaceful way, so his leadership benefits all. When a leader not only speaks but also follows his steps, his followers can see the true nature and truth in his actions, and therefore, they are more willing to follow him. Gandhi set an example of the way he behaved. He always has modest clothes and accessories, and he does not have many material possessions. During his struggle for peace, people believed in his teachings because of his genuine character and actions, as well as the lack of trust he placed in material possessions. Many leaders can often be followed simply because of their wealth and status, even though their actions are immoral and evil. Mahatma Gandhi’s peaceful, minimalist mindset was a breath of fresh air to a people once oppressed by the rich and high-status. Thus, Luis Fischer, the famous researcher on Gandhi, commented: “... his power was nil, authority enormous.” Mahatma Gandhi had a heart for the people of India, and he often shared that heart in his work for them. When he preached to the people of India, he never spoke or wrote from a position of power, but with equality and compassion. Leaders throughout history often put their career advancement above the best interests of the organisation they lead. They sacrifice the betterment of those they lead for their own good. Gandhi was not like that. He tries to really understand the people he represents and speaks to his people from his own perspective. The people of India respect the way Gandhi views each Indian.

Leader as of Gandhi’s Eye

One of the great qualities of a leader is a willingness to keep learning. No one likes a leader who has a big ego and seems to be a know-it-all. Gandhi was not like that at all. Mahatma Gandhi continuously studied the scriptures in pursuit of higher spiritual understanding. He knew he didn’t know everything, and despite his advanced age, he continued to learn throughout his life. Lifelong learning is a great quality of a leader because it shows those you lead that you are willing to learn and grow, rather than just dictate. There should be constant growth in life, not complacency. Gandhi was never complacent but always learning and growing. Mahatma Gandhi used peaceful methods to convey his message; he had to persevere. Strong leadership methods may leave people with no choice but to follow him, but persistence in peace makes you passionately follow. Gandhi persevered in peace. He practised what he preached, and people were delighted to hear him because of it. After clearly articulating his vision for peace, he is determined to implement it, sometimes even at the expense of his own happiness. Gandhi was so devoted to the people of India that he used to talk to people after events so late in the evening that he had days without rest. Anyone with a high mental capacity needs to be disciplined. Discipline allows you to take advantage of the 24 hours we all have in the day. Leaders often have a lot of work to do, and they need discipline to ensure that every task gets done. Gandhi was an extremely disciplined individual. He is known for his constant learning and research. As a lifelong learner, he was always looking for more knowledge and spiritual enlightenment. He had to compromise his time to study, develop his spiritual life, participate in politics and social justice, as well as prepare speeches, spoken and written. Gandhi used his time wisely, and he was very disciplined in his practice so that everything that needed to be done was done on time. Gandhi believed that committing to discipline and challenging himself would help him better achieve his goals. On the matter of the future, a successful leader always has a game plan with them. Having a strategy and being willing to strategize is an important part of being a leader. Gandhi was a strategist - always thinking and analysing strategies for his pacifist political methods. He used the Public Relations network and also worked closely with the media. He has a good relationship with the media because everyone respects him. Because Gandhi had a deep understanding of human psychology and worked with it to influence people more. When he organises peaceful protests, he knows he has to create a presence that gets people’s attention. He used these methods and more to strategically use his purposes.

Gandhi from Local to National and Global

Being role models, leaders must be the ones to make the change they want to see in the world. Gandhi had a worldview centred on peace and compassion. In turn, he needs to find peace and compassion in his own life. He often sets an example, seeking his own peace and showing compassion to others. Gandhi's dedication to peace and nonviolent resistance is the basis of all his teachings. He persistently pursued these peaceful and nonviolent methods. Before launching his nonviolent movement, Gandhi was a successful lawyer with a thriving career. He sacrificed his success to fit in with the lower class of the Indians and live a simple life. It allows him to see the change he wants to see in the world and work for it. The Indians respected him for this sacrifice and for his simple life because he understood them. This is how Gandhiji became a world-class leader. Nowadays, the leaders of different countries follow these principles and ideals of Gandhiji very deeply. And that is why Gandhiji has become a subject of study in various universities of the world.

Testing Gandhian Leadership in the Indian Environment

Gandhi rehashed the rules of recreation to bargain with situations where all accessible existing techniques had become sluggish. He broke convention. He cannot simply fight the British. The limitation of resources did not bother him. He dares to guess the way. Changed his worldview of how we would run. On the other hands he pointed at a common motivation that was the inspiration. He recommends that India must, in a general sense, alter the way it develops. He unleashed the power of ordinary individuals within the nation to battle under a binding objective. In case one can get the thought process of your opponent's administration, they can discover the ways to handle it.

We continue to feel that Western leadership models may be better for us to follow. We have placed greater emphasis on conforming to Western leadership values and models. But these models have been questioned by Westerners for several years now. As a result, Gandhism has become the main field of inquiry for the entire world, including India. There is no leader before him or after him who could join every common man. And did not hesitate to take to the streets for the common good. Gandhi advocated a conditional style of authority. When Gandhi was in South Africa, he fought his battles in a suit and tie. Again, when he returned to India, he received Khadir and started a peaceful struggle on a more significant scale. In any position of life, Gandhi must be a very adaptable leader.

The main characteristic of Gandhi's leadership is an equal attitude and empathy towards all people. and to associate all with the dignity and objectives of the country. By which the power and performance of the event increases. Gandhi sought to integrate all individuals into the organisation through an unbiased approach. That is why Gandhi's model as a caretaker and leader is remarkable. Few leaders like him have been able to connect people's perspectives at all levels of society and inspire people from all walks of life with equanimity. His firm belief was that all tasks can be accomplished through greatness. He had self-confidence and was also able to inspire the Indian nation to engage in future action with confidence in its own opportunities. He even devoted himself to solving all their problems constantly. Among the Mahatma's convictions, therefore, was the determination to be interested in the truth.

Impact on Society

Leadership is an important component of social interaction. Any gathering, affiliation, association or local area works the manner in which its chief leads it. It is more genuine in the collectivistic societies like India, where individuals follow the way shown by the extraordinary individuals. Authority is an indispensable piece of work and public activity. As a matter of fact, in some random circumstance where a gathering needs to achieve a shared objective, a leader might be required. Administrative conduct happens in practically all formal and casual social circumstances. Indeed, even in a non-proper circumstance, for example, a gathering of companions, some kind of authority conduct happens wherein one individual generally takes a lead in the majority of the gathering exercises.

When Mahatma first got up to talk in court as a legal advisor, he was unable to express a single word without holding back because of dread. This caused him incredible embarrassment. Despite this fact, he bombed pitifully. Those disappointments at last led to him becoming one of the most incredible public speakers ever. There were a lot of times Gandhi fizzled, each time he utilised the inability to further develop his initiative abilities and to work on himself and the main job. Mahatma shows us that even the best chiefs actually fizzle and commit errors. He likewise shows that the distinction between a great leader and an ordinary leader is that the great leader recognises and gains from their slip-ups.

Motivation and Inspiration from a Leader

The leader must have the power to move the majority; This is valid for every democratic leader, even more so for authoritarian leaders. Basically, lead with your heart and show that you really believe in the motivation behind a big inspiration for you. Sentiments are contagious, optimistic and pessimistic, and should be observed in daylight. In fact, even in critical and doubtful times, it is important to keep positive emotions. While revealing the truth is essential, giving a sense of hope is equally important. Leaders should support a culture of pride among delegates. They should have the option of gaining the overall vision of an association. A leader should bring out the best in others and empower them to act. When reps think they "just work here", nowadays every institution usually becomes restless day by day.

Beliefs and the Relationship between the Leader and Followers

Believability is generally a single significant quality of a great leader. It is an establishment that works with trustworthiness, uprightness, and self-control. Workers look up to the leader as their idol, and essentially, the individual takes significant steps in their everyday work. If the leader cannot exercise his strong leadership qualities, their ideas will not succeed. Every leader should understand that their followers are constantly observing and scrutinising their activities. Assesses the fit between the leader's work and their work. So, the leader should practice self-restraint by not wounding their own inner feelings or emotions. and transferring its results to the grassroots level. In today's internet era, connectivity is a very important task. It is a leader's job to assess each person's expression. The leader's job is not limited to creating these arrangements or hierarchies, but to ensuring that followers seek the kind of personal benefits they seek. Followers always want to get their demands and needs from their leader. Therefore, the future strategies of the leader should be done not only for personal interest but also for the common good.

Conclusion

Gandhi's whole biography is about activity, to achieve positive change. He tried to develop the society and the people. He continuously tried to carry out these development activities throughout his whole life. Through these development activities, the people, the society and the country all changed and developed. Today, Gandhi is remembered as a political leader, yet as a moralist who spoke to the general still, small voice of humanity. He impacted the world. Gandhi's impact on the world was nevertheless enormous. He likewise provided for the world a perspective on and following up on esteem frameworks that significantly impacted such significant figures as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. From a reasonable perspective, his emphasis on "Swadeshi" shaped the path of India's modern strategy. Gandhi's prosperity and notoriety make him a leader qualified to gain from. We all who try to lead morally might very well never "be like him".

Gandhi's importance today is much more pointed, eloquent and aggressive. In leading in all these areas, leaders need to be morally honest and understand their own responsibilities with the good and bad and the dreams of others. Gandhiji was always trying to make India's development effective with a group of followers. So, he was wielding a remarkable influence of vision that affected a change in every person who took part with him. One of his most commendable characteristics was that he showed others how it's done and never taught what he personally was not ready to do. He was charming, yet he was likewise intentional and logical. He was a groundbreaking and value-based leader as well. Mahatma Gandhi instructed us that we can carry agreement to our reality by becoming heroes of adoration and harmony for all.

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