



Gandhi's ideology towards Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

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Abstract

On the ceremony of the birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, initiated a drive to promote cleanliness all over the country on October 2nd, 2014. The goal of the Clean India Mission, also known as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, is to ensure that each household in India has access to basic sanitation amenities such as toilets, methods for removing solid or liquid waste, cleaning communities, as well as an appropriate and contaminant-free water supply. We have till 2019 to do to pay an appropriate homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth. According to Narendra Modi, the Swachh Bharat movement is unrelated to politics and is instead motivated by patriotism rather than politics. He additionally requested that individuals make a promise, which said "I will not litter & will not let anybody else do so." In addition, he gave the signal to begin a walkathon as part of the Swachh Bharat Campaign, which is more than a catchphrase; it is our job. Individuals' minds immediately went to Gandhi's concept of sanitation as a result of this.

Keywords: India, Gandhi, Swachh Bharat, cleanliness, campaign, hygiene

Introduction

Human waste, waste products (such as non-biodegradable & biodegradable refuse/trash/rubbish), wastewater, sewer wastewater, manufacturing wastes, as well as harmful (like as health center, contaminant, radioactive, polycarbonate, or even other risky) wastes are all part of the wider theory of "Sanitation," which entails the efficient governance (gathering, care, disposal/recovery, reusable, or recycling) of all of these materials (Desai, *et al.*, 2018) ^[1].

It seems to reason that a civilization's amount of productivity would be proportional to its degree of cleanliness since these factors all contribute to the quality of life in that community. These factors also impact the amount to which materials that were formerly considered trash are now becoming retrieved, reused, or recycled. The absence of hygiene as well as the resulting dirt, filth, & pollution that results from an absence of sanitary has significant societal & financial repercussions (Vishwakarma, 2016) ^[2].

Early age, Mahatma Gandhi recognized that the terrible condition of cleanliness & purity in India, as well as especially the absence of suitable toilets, in what was essentially mostly rural India, required the same or more effort as was spent towards attaining swaraj. He warned that "swaraj can have no benefit for us" until we "clean ourselves of our filthy behaviors & also have renovated toilet facilities." In addition to leading the fight for India's independence, he spent his whole public career (1893–30.1.1948) in South Africa & India advocating for better hygiene, cleaner environments, & more effective trash administration across all sectors. The technological, social, or economical dimensions of cleanliness, as well as its many individual, household, and industrial manifestations, were all within his purview.

Shortly after India's independence, Gandhi was killed. Even though the government has sometimes addressed the problem of cleanliness since independence, it has mostly

been ignored. Improvements should be made to such infrastructure (Khan, 2017) ^[3].

With this as a backdrop, new optimism was sparked by the Prime Minister's Independence Day address (15.8.2014): "What should we do to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday? When it came to important values, few were more important to Mahatma Gandhi than hygiene & cleanliness. In honor of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday in 2019, would we pledge to leave not a single trace of litter in our homes, communities, workplaces, or public spaces? This occurs with the help of both the government and the general people. Hence, we need your help to get this done." (Alexander, 2019) ^[4] The Prime Minister's commitment to ensuring that all Indians have access to toilets, solid but also fluid waste disposal structures, and village sanitation, as well as a secure but also sufficient drinkable water delivery, was made clear when he started the nationwide cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission) on October 2, 2014.

Literature review

A. The Significance of cleanliness

Gandhiji brought the Indian people to independence, however his vision of a clean India has yet to be realized. "Cleanliness is greater vital than freedom," Mahatma Gandhi once observed. He established personal hygiene & cleanliness as fundamental to the Gandhian philosophy. One of his goals was universal access to toilets. A healthy atmosphere or body is of paramount importance. It's relevant to both community and individual sanitation. Everybody needs to get knowledge regarding the importance of keeping oneself clean, practicing good hygiene, & using proper sanitation to prevent the spread of illness. Behavior patterns established at an early age tend to persist throughout an individual's life. We don't care whether public spaces are clean, although if we teach our children to cleanse their hands before eating, brush their teeth after every meal, or take frequent showers. I shall not

let filthy feet tread onto the sacred ground of my intellect," Mahatma Gandhi once said.

Gandhiji focused extensively on the link between hygiene & health. Nobody is allowed to blow his nose or spit in public. Sputum may sometimes be so contaminated that it can spread disease. Spitting in the street is a punishable violation in various nations. Spitting out chewed-up betel leaves or cigarettes shows a lack of empathy. You might also bury things like spit, nasal discharge, and other mucous.

B. A Gandhian Perspective on the Production of Waste and the Management of It

The perspective that Mahatma Gandhi took toward the production of all kinds of "waste" & its subsequent treatment was the driving force behind his enduring commitment to hygiene, sanitation, including cleanliness. He regarded "waste" as a commodity that was not in its proper location, and he refused to tolerate the wasteful squandering of any material, whether it was a shred of paper, a water drop, a single grain, or a small amount of salt (Nadkarni, 2014)^[7].

Cleanliness is required everywhere

At the age of 46, following a sojourn of 20 years in that other place, Gandhi eventually made his way back to India alongside his party. In the year in question, he went to the Kumbh Mela in Hardwar, and while there, he and his Phoenix sons worked as bhangis even during the festival (Roberts, 2014)^[8].

The following year, Gandhi traveled to Poona to pay a visit to the quarters of the Servants of India Organization. During one of the mornings, the people who lived in the little community observed him washing the toilet facilities. They would not enjoy it. Gandhi, however, had the belief that doing labor such as this may qualify one for swaraj.

On many occasions, he traveled across the whole of India. It didn't matter where or when he visited, he always observed unclean circumstances of some kind. He also said that even though very fewer people in India would buy shoes, it was unimaginable for them to wander about barefoot. Individuals walking around the sidewalks of Bombay lived in constant dread of getting spat on by the citizens living in the surrounding apartments. This was true, especially in a metropolis as large as Bombay. The dirt & odor emanating from the public urinals & restrooms found at dharmshalas or train stations was appalling. Gandhi was appalled by the passengers' practice of leaving the cabins of the train in a filthy state (Arundale, 2019)^[9].

The impoverished peasants & their bullocks were often forced to utilize the roadways that were in bad condition. He witnessed individuals swimming in a holy lake without giving a care about how unclean the setting or the water was. He noticed folks having a dip in the lake. They were responsible for the riverbanks becoming dirty. It pained him to see the marbled floor of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple set with silver coins gathering filth, as well as he questioned why the majority of entries to the domiciles of God were via small pathways that were prone to slipping.

When Gandhi met with local government officials, he would often say to them, "I congratulate you on your wide roads, your excellent lights, and your lovely parks." However, a town doesn't deserve to remain if it does not have state-of-the-art public restrooms and if its streets or alleys are not

maintained spotless at all times during the day or night-time. Have you previously given any regard to the living circumstances of the people who clean the floors?"

Gandhiji stressed the need of keeping the servants' rooms just as clean as the bungalows that their owners lived in. There is no use in arguing that we have not mastered the art of exterior cleanliness to the same extent as the English have because we have not. It is upsetting that the living areas of the sweepers & other low-level employees who work at the Viceroy's House are filthy. Our newly appointed ministers in the administration will not put up with the current state of things. Even if they will be living in the same well-kept bungalows, they will ensure that the quarters in which their employees are housed are maintained in the identical pristine condition as their own. In addition to this, they will be responsible for ensuring that the spouses and children of the members of staff are kept clean. Both Jawaharlal & Sardar have said that they have no problem with the idea of maintaining their restrooms (Polak, 2019)^[10]. What possible interest might they take in the tidying up of the rooms in which their servants live? One of Jawaharlal's former Harijan servants is currently serving as a representative of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature. When the quarters of the ministers' employees are brought up to the same level of tidiness comparable to their own, I will consider myself pleased." (Remarks spoken at a devotional session held in New Delhi on September 3, 1946)

Instruction in cleanliness for individual freedom

Gandhiji returned to India from South Africa on his second journey, and while there he advocated for the rights of Indians residing in South Africa before the Calcutta Session of the Congress. The absence of appropriate sanitation in the Congress camp was awful. Several of the visitors did not mind that the toilet was located on the balcony in front of their room. Gandhi took fast action. Volunteers warned him, "This is not our labor; this is a task for a sweeper." He requested a broom and then cleaned up the mess. He was then dressed in normal Western attire. The passers-by showed disbelief, but none went forward to give aid. Brahmins were hired as bhangis (sweepers) in the Congress barracks when Gandhi ascended to the leadership of the Indian National Congress. At the Haripura Congress, 2,000 instructors and students received specialized instruction in scavenging. Gandhi believed that no group of humans should be branded as "untouchables" only because they are responsible for rubbish collection. In India, he pushed for the abolition of the caste system.

Gandhi was usually cheerful when he got the opportunity to do light housework. He felt that a community's cleanliness could be determined by its septic systems. He identified himself as a bhangi and said that he would not mind dying as a sweeper. Even more so, he begged orthodox Hindus to include him in their social boycott of untouchables.

How to make use of the media to raise consciousness about cleanliness

Because of their slothful behavior, the white people in South Africa looked down on the native Indian population. Gandhi went around & examined their living quarters before requesting that they maintain the cleanliness of their dwellings and the adjacent area. He discussed it in public settings & published articles concerning it in publications. In Durban, Gandhi's home was constructed in a style typical

of western architecture. The bathroom did not have any kind of water outlet. It was necessary to clean the toilet seats & chamber pots that were utilized by his employees when they were staying with him. He forced his wife Kasturba to participate in the activity as well. In addition, he instructed his young boys in this task. When requested to carry the chamber pot that his caste workers utilized, Kasturba once voiced her anger at being forced to do so. Gandhi reprimanded her & instructed her to leave the home if she intended to continue practicing caste discrimination. Because he welcomed a couple considered untouchable into the Sabarmati Ashram, he was formerly subjected to a social boycott by his supporters.

Family and western effects

Gandhi's fame in Rajkot spread far & wide. His ancestors both held the position of dewan (Prime Minister) in Rajkot as well as the states around it. It took a lot of courage for the son of the Prime Minister as well as a lawyer to go door to door in the town to check the sewer lines. Moral fortitude was something Gandhi seldom lacked.

Uka, a Mehtar (a person who sweeps) in his community, was responsible for trash collection. Putlibai, Uka's mother, threatened to make Gandhi have a bath if he once touched her son. As a rule, Gandhi is a very compliant & submissive kid, but he didn't appreciate this. The mother as well as her 12-year-old son often butted heads; "How could Uka, who cleans our filth & muck, contaminate me by touching me? No, I won't defy you, but the Ramayana claims that Rama kissed the chandal Guhaka (a caste considered untouchable). We cannot be misled by the Ramayana." To Putlibai's reasoning, there was nothing to reply. While he was critical of several Western practices, he did confess that he had picked up some tips on cleanliness from the West. That standard of hygiene was something he hoped to see adopted throughout India.

By way of example of our lack of hygiene, Gandhiji sent a letter calling for a strict observance of lavatory cleanliness "I expect to be attacked on the topic of restrooms. Thirty-five years ago, I discovered the need of keeping a bathroom as spotless as a formal living space. The West is where I picked up this knowledge. In my opinion, Westerners are greater likely to strictly adhere to regulations regarding bathroom cleaning than their Eastern counterparts. Poor sanitation as well as the widespread practice of discarding human waste in unsanitary locations are major contributors to a wide range of health problems. Consequently, I consider a sanitary spot to respond to nature's call and clean toiletries to be an imperative requirement. I've become used to them & think everyone else should, too. This pattern has been so ingrained in me that even if I tried to break it, I might be unsuccessful. To add insult to injury, I have no desire to alter it."

Conclusion

We may conclude that maintaining a clean environment is crucial not only for the country but also for our personal lives. It is well known that Mahatma Gandhi put in his committed to bringing about the transformation he dreamed of seeing in the world. It is, obviously, unreasonable to anticipate that the officials of our modern nation would go to the cities that are seeing an increase in the number of slums & then launch an honest effort to clean up the area. Far less likely is the possibility that they'll draw us aside from their market-focused agendas and ineffective,

unilateral chase of GDP development to concentrate on the mission of nation-building. The roles of both teachers & students are extremely crucial in the process of raising awareness about the importance of cleanliness. The function of social media in today's society is a crucial one, particularly when it comes to raising people's levels of knowledge and instilling in them a sense of national pride. It is not simply the duty of the person working in hygiene or of the regional administration to keep the area clean. It is everyone in the Indian community's obligation.

Under these circumstances, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, an activity that was adopted by the Indian government & was motivated by the Gandhian campaign for cleanliness, arrives as a statement of hope and an extremely opportune action made by the government. The very first group of objectives for the Swachh Bharat mission include, as they should, the disposal of human waste, and wastewater, including garbage, as well as the supply of toilets in every house or communal location.

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