

RELEVANCE OF GANDHI'S AHIMSA IN MODERN WORLD: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CULTURAL IDENTITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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ABSTRACT

The world is facing rapid multidimensional crisis today. Gandhi's philosophy is mainly aimed to bring world peace against the countless problems related with warfare, battles, violence, terrorism, over militarisation, depleted resources, degradation of nature, ecological crisis, corruption etc. The root cause of all these crises is mainly due to human actions, their roles, their unlimited needs and greeds that often implied the usage of science and technology. Gandhi criticized modern civilization in 'Hind Swaraj', and said that it is a threat for human's future. In the wake of modernization, there arise the problem of cultural identity crisis. Through his doctrine of Sarvodaya and trusteeship he advocated social responsibility i.e., welfare of all. Gandhi drew his ideal inspiration from Bhagavadgītā such as concept of non-violence, welfare of all, selfless action and so on. His notion of peace is centered on the concept of 'Ahimsa' (Non-Violence), 'Satyagraha' (truth), 'Sarvodaya' (welfare of all) and 'Trusteeship'; his view is towards humane and nature friendly environment (Swadeshi).

KEYWORDS: Ahimsa, Antodaya, Cultural Identity, Dharma, Modernity, Niśkāmakarma, Sarvodaya, Satyagraha, Social Responsibility, Swadeshi, Trusteeship, World Peace