



Gandhian perspective of Environment: An Introspection

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Abstract

“The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for our greed.”– M.K. Gandhi

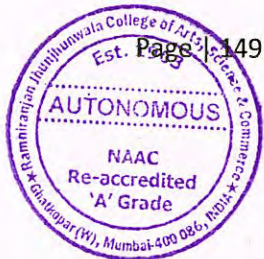
This quote by Gandhi depicts his concern for nature and environment. All the international summits such as the Stockholm Conference of 1972 or the Rio Earth Summit of 1992 were convened much later than the concerns raised by Gandhi about the environment and its effects. In India among the major environmental movements such as the Chipko movement led by Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sunder Lal Bahuguna and the Narmada Bachao Andolan by Baba Amte and Medha Patkar got inspiration from Gandhi. The concern of Gandhi about the environment, urbanization and mechanization was apparent in his speeches, writings and his messages to the people. It is important to note that he was the World's early environmentalist in vision and practice.

Keyword: Values, Greed, Non-Violence, Swaraj, Industrialization, Vasudevakutumbakam, Gandhian Model of Ecology, Sarvodaya.

Introduction:

Gandhiji thought that industrialization and urbanization have created multiple problems and miseries for the modern man. The process of industrialization, modernization and rapid urbanization is caused for unbalanced development, and rapid depletion of natural resources caused threat to natural environment. Gandhiji was critic of modern civilization, rapid industrialization and galloping urbanization. In this scenario the relevance of Gandhian ethical value are important. He was much more concerned for environment much before the modern environmentalist.

Population explosion, poverty, excess-usage of renewable resources, overuse of fertilizers leading to water pollution, rapid industrialization, global warming, climate change, desertification, deforestation, emission of harmful substances or gases causing air pollution, industrial and artificial wastes, and nuclear hazards which is due to anthropocentric attitude of humans; causing irreparable damages to our planet earth. Many of these problems are due to uncontrolled industrialization. The air pollution has caused a



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