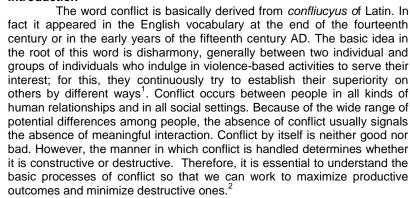
# Innovation The Research Concept

# **Gandhi: An Ambassador of Peace**

# **Abstract**

The word conflict is basically derived from *confliucyus* of Latin. In fact it appeared in the English vocabulary at the end of the fourteenth century or in the early years of the fifteenth century AD. The basic idea in the root of this word is disharmony, generally between two individual and groups of individuals who indulge in violence-based activities to serve their interest; for this, they continuously try to establish their superiority on others by different ways. Conflict by itself is neither good nor bad. It depends upon the parties , what will they do with conflict, if they will recognize each other and continuously will talk , then the conflict will be constrictive, but if they will not talking and patience, and positive attitude towards conflict then it will be destructive. This research will be discussed about conflict and explain Gandhian methods of conflict resolution, which make him an ambassador of peace.

**Keywords:** Gandhi, Peace, Conflict, Resolution, Ambassador. **Introduction** 



So, Mahatma Gandhi had once observed: "Perhaps never before has there been so much speculation about the future as there is today. Will our world always be one of violence? Will there always be poverty, starvation and misery? Will we have a firmer and wider belief in religion, or will the world be godless? If there is to be a great change in society, how will that change be wrought? By war or revolution? Or will it come peacefully? Different men give different answers to these questions, each man drawing the plan of tomorrow's world as he hope and wishes it to be. I answer not out of belief but out of communication, the world of tomorrow will be, must be, a society based on non-violence."

The words 'conflict resolution' can mean different things to different people. Conflict resolution may, broadly, be seen as a problemsolving exercise that aims at the elimination of the sources of the conflict, not merely the management of the conflict or the settlement. Gandhi was a life-long practitioner of conducting major public conflicts and a profound conflict theorist.4 Gandhian framework is primarily egalitarian and not utilitarian. It is for the welfare of all and not merely for a few or maximum number of people. Gandhi's conflict resolution is holistic in nature while other prevalent methods prefer to resolve a conflict in a piecemeal fashion. Gandhi aims for the highest and the best<sup>5</sup>. After accepting the reality of conflicts in men's life, their source of emergence and continuous efforts, which human beings have been making through the ages for their resolution, now, we shall come to the subject in hand the Gandhian way to resolve conflicts. The Gandhian method as a way of conflict resolution has existed for over a century. It establishes superiority, particularly over those, whose fundamental way itself is based on violence.

Because all the major problems in the world today are due to the violence accepting culture that pervades across the spectrum of nationality, religion race, caste, and gender etc. Gandhi did not set out to elaborate on the theory of conflict and peace. But one cans infer his ideas on this topic



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from the rich collection of his writings. This interference is easier than otherwise implied because his approach towards all problems individual, national or international was integral and interrelated. His entire philosophy forms a coherent whole and is based on a simple value system comprising of the truth and non –violence. Gandhi defies any classification so far any exclusive school of thought is concerned. Any search for an internally consistent and systematized body of Gandhian thought would prove elusive. He had no time and little patience with theoretical formulations.

# Scope of the study

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The words 'conflict resolution' can mean very different meaning for different people. John Burton sees conflict resolution as a problem-solving exercise that aims at the elimination of the sources of the conflict, not merely the management of the conflict or the settlement (often through coercive power in a way that does not meet the needs of all parties) of the manifest dispute. In short, for Burton, conflicts may be managed and disputes may be settled without conflicts being solved without conflicts being resolved.

"Who indeed can claim to know and understand the mind of the great, as pointed out by Bhavbhuti, is certainly a difficult task? We respond to his name, achievements and memory rather emotionally. It may be explained in term of his too closeness to us, both in respect of time and space. Too much of proximity usually stands in the way of an objective understanding. Emotion is helpful and good in its own sphere. But when it overpowers our intellect we lose our perspective and fall victims to a sort of optical illusion. We get ourselves bogged in total confusion<sup>10</sup>.

# **Sources of Conflict**

Early reviews in the field of conflict resolution identified a large number of schemes for describing sources or types of conflict.

- Economic conflict involves competing motives to attain scarce resources. Each party wants to get the most that it can, and the behavior and emotions of each party are directed toward maximizing its gain. Union and management conflict often has as one of its sources the incompatible goals of how to slice up the "economic pie" 11.
- Value conflict involves incompatibility in ways of life, ideologies – the preferences, principles and practices that people believe in. International conflict (e.g., the Cold War) often has a strong value component, wherein each side asserts the rightness and superiority of its way of life and its political-economic system<sup>12</sup>.
- 3. Power conflict occurs when each party wishes to maintain or maximize the amount of influence that it exerts in the relationship and the social setting. It is impossible for one party to be stronger without the other being weaker, at least in terms of direct influence over each other. Thus, a power struggle ensues which usually ends in a victory and defeat, or in a "stand-off" with a continuing state of tension<sup>13</sup>.

4. Miscommunication and misunderstanding can create conflict even where there are no basic incompatibilities. In addition, parties may have different perceptions as to what are the facts in a situation, and until they share information and clarify their perceptions, resolution is impossible. Whether the conflict has objective sources or is due only to Perceptual or communication problems, it is experienced as very real by the parties involved<sup>14</sup>.

So, in Hind Swaraj Gandhi had characterized modern civilization as a 'disease' and a 'nine days' wonder. Earlier in 1927 he had forewarned the 'civilized' west that "a time is coming when those who are in the mad rush today of multiplying their wants....will retrace their steps and say 'what have we done?" Barely two week before his death in January 1948, had Gandhi made the rather prophetic statement, "this (modern) civilization is such that one has only to be patient, and it will be self-destroyed?"15 Undoubtedly each and every person or we should say every citizen of the global family, ought to be committed to peace in today's human predicament, caused by conflicts due to Ideological Extremism, Religious Fundamentalism, Misguided Nationalism, Economic Injustice and Inequality, Violation of Human Rights, Suppression of Freedoms, Militarism of Power Politics, Population Explosion, Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, Egoism and uncontrolled human instincts etc. Gandhi recognized the potentiality of these various kinds of conflict as occasions to contemplate over the confirmed problems and also as opportunity to search peaceful means to resolve them, because of his positive attitude .He knew very well that the process of conflict resolution involved painstaking task of restructuring the present world by liberating human mind from dogmatism of various kinds such as economic and political barbarism, religious bigotry etc. 16. Gandhi's approach had always been Holistic as human life is a synthetic whole, which cannot be divided into watertight compartments of social, religious, political life etc. conflicts and their solutions by Gandhian way:

- Moral Crisis Solutions: Non-violence Ashram, Anasakta Karma
- Religious Fundamentalism Solutions: Sarva Dharma Sambhava, Tolerance, Respect towards all Religions
- 3. Educational Reform Solutions: Nai-Talim Adult Education
- Social Disturbance Solutions: Removal of Untouchability, Communal Unity, Sarvodaya, Upliftment of Women, Prohibition, Service of Backward Classes, Village Sanitation
- Political Conflicts Solutions: Swaraj, Decentralisation of Power. Democracy of Enlightened Majority
- Economic Problem Solutions: Trusteeship, Swadeshi, Bread Labour, Khadi and Village Industries

The most fundamental principle of his philosophy of peace is "Ahimsa" or non-violence which is law of love, life and creation as opposed to violence or Himsa, the cause of hatred, death and

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destruction. According to Gandhi the universal human value of Ahimsa ought to be cultivated not merely at personal level, but at social, national and international level too if we wish to avoid personal, social, national and international conflicts. It is a very powerful means to avoid conflict, since it springs from inner realization of the equality of all.

Gandhi believed in the technique of Satyagraha, because he had faith in the goodness of human nature. The moral and humanistic grandeur of Satyagraha as method of resolving conflict and securing justice has been appreciated by several thinkers, politicians and social workers. Satyagrahi while resisting injustice shows respect for his opponent by making moral appeals to him and expecting him to be responsive. Satyagrahi aims at conversion of the opponent's heart by making him aware of his ill will or inhuman behavior through selfsuffering". Satyagraha aims at winning over opponent by love and gentle persuading and by arousing in him a sense of justice rather than forcing him to surrender out of fear. So, Gandhi's Philosophy of peace endorses the truism that Gandhi is one of the very relevant precursors of conflict-resolution movement with his comprehensible philosophy of peace based on the psychology of human nature, awareness of social realities and knowledge of economic and political systems and situations.

# Objectives of the Study

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The Objectives of the study is to investigate the following:

- To understand conflict and its impact on Indian society.
- 2. What are the obstacles in the way of peace?
- 3. What are the causes of conflict?
- How the conflict can be resolve in a Gandhian way.
- 5. What is the relevance of techniques in the present day society?
- 6. What was the legacy of Gandhi which provided successors to make better strategy about conflict resolution?

# **Hypotheses**

- 1. Conflict is a part of human nature.
- 2. Power is mostly used for conflict resolution.
- Satyagraha and Ahimsa are not used in the present day society.

# **Review of Litreture**

As stated earlier, conflict resolution a Gandhian perspective have become a topic of numerous academic discourses and writings, not due to an old thoughts, but recently due to its rise in international world order. Since then, there are a number of books and articles have been written on Gandhi's way on conflict resolution.

Joan ValerieBondurant's, "Conquest of Violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict" highlights When Mahatma Gandhi died in 1948 by an assassin's bullet, the most potent legacy he left to the world was the technique of satyagraha (literally, holding on to the Truth). His "experiments with Truth" were far from complete at the time of his death, but he had developed a new technique for effecting social and political change through the constructive conduct

of conflict: Gandhiansatyagraha had become eminently more than "passive resistance" or "civil disobedience" By relating what Gandhi said to what he did and by examining instances of satyagraha led by others, this book abstracts from the Indian experiments those essential elements that constitute the Gandhian technique. It explores, in terms familiar to the Western reader, its distinguishing characteristics and its far-reaching implications for social and political philosophy. 18

Jai Narain Sharma's, "Satyagraha Gandhi's Approach to Conflict Resolution", in this book highlighted that in times such as ours when conflict is the order of the day and the potential of technology offers more to fear than to hope, social, political theory face their gravest challenge. Theoretical political systems have grown increasingly suspect and intellectual formulations tend less to challenge than repel. The low standard, that are approved of and followed in conflict resolution tend progressively to lower our moral standards. Why is this so? It is because humanity so far been trying to solve conflicts by means through which they can never be solved. Evil cannot be cured by evil, nor hate conquered by hate. 'Satan cannot be exercised by Satan'. There is a great demand for solutions to the problems of conflict - not for theoretically systems of end-structure and aimed at ultimately eliminating conflict when it arises: ways which are constructive and not destructive. Such a demand must be met by a theory of process and of means and not of further concern for structure, for patterns and for ends. 19

K.L.Shridharni's, "War without Violence" is an authentic work on Satyagraha. Shridaharni wrote it during the freedom struggle in the 40's when Mahatma Gandhi was alive. He has also discussed several points with Mahatma on Satyagraha for the students of non-violence, conflict resolution. It is magnum opus rather a classic work.<sup>20</sup>

Ramjee Singh, S. Sundaram's, "Gandhi and the World Order", in this book discusses about the Gandhian principles which are capable to mitigate the greatest challenge of the modern age. Gandhi's philosophy becomes pertinent in the present world due to complexity of human nature. Unity of mankind, service of man, application of moral principles considered valid for individual to group life and interstate relation. Gandhi and the world Order an intellectual response to solve the contemporary dilemmas and conflicts arising out due to failure of developmental paradigms and failure of leadership. Even the welfare state is not responding as it was expected.<sup>21</sup>

Ashu Pasricha's, "Peace Studies the Discipline and Dimensions", in this book the writer provides a comprehensive introduction to a wide ranging panorama of the ideas, theories and assumptions on which the study of peace is based. Can we stop war and live in peace? What are the causes deep rooted in society and obstacles to peace which time and again have given rise to conflicts? Can we not remove these causes and obstacles? A man is no doubt imbued with the instinct of fighting, but he has also the instinct for peaceful living. If the

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social environment is such as to give greater scope for his fighting instinct there will be conflicts/Wars, if the social environment is such as to give greater scope for the instinct of peaceful living, mankind will be more prone to live peacefully. These are the things writer emphasized in her work<sup>2</sup>

Paul Wilkinson's, "International Relations", a very short introduction, an attempt to elaborate the chronological development of international relation it includes not only relations between states but also between states and non-state organization such as churches, humanitarian relief organizations and multinational corporations, and between states and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the UN and the EU. The book explains also political thinker's thoughts such as Niccolo Machiavelli, President George W. Bush, Ayatolloh Khomeini, prince Otto in Bismarck, Vladimir Itrich Lenin and Pape John Paul II. The writer discuss also about terrorism also a result of danger conflict when a conflict in so complies then come in way of  $terrorism^{23}$ .

Parmeshwari Dayal's, "Gandhian Theory of Social Reconstruction", explains Human Society, and today is in a state of flux reflected by the threats to the peace and stability of society and the conditions of mass poverty, starvation, exploitation and widespread violence. The ecological imbalance and environmental pollution endangering the health and personal life of the people also threaten the human civilized life. The state of flux in further confounded by the new revelations of fraud and deceptions in one corporation after another and in one country after other sending shock waves around the globe. The faith of the people in corporate economic appears to be shaken even the leaders of capitalism declare that corporate scandals are threatening to undermine capitalism itself. Gandhian theory of social reconstruction is a response to such challenges that confront humanity. Gandhi has left behind a large legacy in the form of his writings written extensively on numerous issues concerning humanity that have been compiled almost in one hundred volumes. Gandhian theory of social reconstruction gives solutions by Satyagraha, Ahimsa, Non-violence and Non-corporation and truth etc.24

Ashu Pasricha's, "Gandhi in Twenty-First Century", is an edited volume which highlights different issues relating to Gandhi by writers as we have hailed Gandhi as Prophet, Crusader and Liberator but he has been seldom properly and critically understood. No doubt, he has been eulogized, romanticized and even mythologized but hardly conceptualized and rationalized. One of the writer highlighted that Gandhi has been remembered in history because of his campaigns for seeking ultimate truth and by using the weapons of truth, love and non-violence to win autonomy for India. Gandhi said that "no one is competent to offer Satyagraha unless he has a living faith in God. And the Bhagvad Gita, to which he would always turn for inspiration, is the allegorical description, not of a Satyagraha campaign, but of the quest of the human soul for union with the supreme-master.2

Schellenberg, "Conflict James A.'s, Resolution Theory, Research and Practice", is a scholarly work in the study of conflict has expanded greatly in recent decades, as has the work of professionals who apply their efforts to the area of conflict resolution2

Deutsch Morton, Peter T. Colemman and Eric C. Marcus's, The Handbook of Conflict Resolution Theory and Practice, is an edited work. This handbook is a classic. It helps connect the research of academia to the practical realities of peacemaking and peacebuilding like no other. It is both comprehensive and deeply informed on topics vital to the field like power, gender, cooperation, emotion, and trust.<sup>27</sup>

### Methodology

The historical and analytical methods are used, while conducting this research. It is mainly based on secondary sources such as books, research articles, journals, newspapers and internet etc. The primary sources reflected in the form of British Government documents, debates, official speeches and statements. As well as used the written data by Mahatma Gandhi.

### Conclusion

In the conclusion I explain some biggest conflicts in the present time, such as moral conflicts, religious conflicts, educational conflicts, social conflicts, political conflicts, economic conflicts and so on. But these could be solve by Gandhi's methods, such as non-violenve, anaskta karma, sarva dharma sambhava, tolerance, nai-talim, adult educaton, removal of untouchability, communal unity, sarvodaya, upliftment of women, prohibition, service of backward classes, village sanitation, swaraj, decentralisation of power. Democracy of enlightene majority and their Gandhian solutions. trusteeship, swadeshi, bread labour, khadi and village industries and so on.

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