



Means of Conflict Resolution in Gandhism

Dr. Shivali Agarwal
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Ismail National Mahila PG College Meerut

Science and technology have given us weapons that individuals or groups can use to the cause mass destruction, wipe out vast populations and inflict death and suffering on generations that may survive or succeed nuclearholocausts. In fact it will be truer to say that we have used science and technology to invent such weapons to enforce our views and our will on those who differ, and expose the human species to the threat of extinction. We have done so because we have inherited the belief that disputes can be settled only by violence, war in the case of nations, and violent conflict or upheavals in the case of sub sovereign groups or individuals. But the world has now seen in the magnitude and duration of the effects of the destruction that violence can cause, to the one who initiates as well as the one who responds' and to the vast mass of innocent people who are not responsible for these decisions, but live in areas controlled by the one who initiates or the one who responds. The ordinary human being everywhere has therefore become far more conscious and concerned about the risks and the ruin that conflict brings in its train.

A conflict may be said to be a serious disagreement between the opinions or interests of two persons or two groups of persons involved in an issue. Gandhi wanted to evolve a revolutionary approach to political action and social change. His originality lay in the formulation of a new technique of non-violent non-cooperation or Satyagraha for social action. He believed that Satyagraha is an infallible means for resolving all social, political and economic evils. As a technique of social action, Satyagraha may be applied to resolve the following type of social conflicts:

- Conflict between one individual and another individual
- Conflict between an individual and a group
- Conflict between one group and another group or between two classes
- Conflict between a section of the community and the state
- Conflict between one nation and another nation

Unlike Marx: Gandhi never regarded all history as the history of class struggle or all social conflicts as fundamentally antagonistic in their nature. Nevertheless he was aware of the class conflicts and wanted to resolve them or minimize them by nonviolent means. Marx and Gandhi held a similar view that no social conflict can be resolved unless the sufferers realize their

suffering and their strength, constitute themselves into a class or an organization, refuse to cooperate with evil and demonstrate their power to the evil-doers or exploiters. Thus arousing of consciousness and continuing with a powerful organization are the essential phenomena in the Marxian and Gandhian techniques of social action. Both these thinkers recognized the existence of social conflicts as a fact and advocate their own methods to resolve them. They believed that exploitation of the masses can be extinguished by the exploited class itself and, therefore, they put the burden of their programme of action on the shoulders of the exploited class. To that extent the “nonviolent non-cooperation or satyagraha” of Gandhi and the “class struggle” of Marx are based in the same technique of social action. Gandhi identifies two areas in which class conflict is more conspicuous:

- Conflict between capitalists and workers in industry.
- Conflict between landlords and tenants in agriculture.

Gandhi’s method of conflict resolution is based on a greater understanding and love between the two parties involved in it. He prescribed the trusteeship formula to the rich and the weapon of nonviolent non-cooperation or Satyagraha to the poor and exploited to bring about a change in the attitude of the rich. Satyagraha is a technique of action wherein the ideal of love would reign in the place of hatred and killing. It is based on truth, works through nonviolence and achieves its end by converting or compelling the opponent through self-suffering.

Techniques of Conflict Resolution

Gandhi chose to resolve conflict in his life and his times by the use of tools of love nonviolence satyagraha and peace. It is for India to show an example to the world by employing these tools again if humanity has to survive.

Theory of Satyagraha:- Gandhi’s method of Satyagraha is based on three fundamental assumptions:

- I. Man’s nature is not beyond redemption and it can be perfectible.
- II. Human nature is one in its essence and responds to love and
- III. What is possible to do for one man is equally possible for all.

Salient Features of Satyagraha:-

- The underlying principle of Satyagraha is not to destroy injure the opponent, but to convert or win him by sympathy, patience and self-suffering.
- The doctrine of Satyagraha is based on the metaphysical belief that the tyrant may have power over the body and material possessions of a satyagrahi, but not over his soul. Hence the soul can remain unconquered and unconquerable even when body is imprisoned.
- Satyagraha, as a tool of social action, is based on a strong moral content. Self-suffering is its unique character which distinguishes it from all other forms of violent methods of actions. Self-suffering is infinitely more superior and powerful than the law of the Jungle for converting the opponent and opening his ears to the voice of the reason.
- Self-sacrifice of one innocent man, in a satyagraha movement, is a million times more potent than the sacrifice of a million men who die in the act of killing others.

- The scope of satyagraha is much wider as it can be applied against our dearest and nearest since there is no hatred or anger or violence in it.
- Satyagraha method lies in arousing consciousness of the masses' continuing education, maintaining the unity of the sufferers and to make them into fearless soldiers, providing them with a powerful organization and then to throw them into heroic battles.
- The multi – class or non class character of satyagraha movement is distinct from other methods which mainly consist of the same class.

Theory of Trusteeship

Gandhi's theory of trusteeship is based in two basic premises:

- I. The rich cannot accumulate wealth without the cooperation of the poor.
- II. Western socialism and communism are not last word on the question of mass poverty.

He developed the theory of trusteeship as an alternative to capitalism and scientific socialism. He was opposed to the western capitalism which necessarily lead to oppression, exploitation, concentration of wealth and inequality. At the same time, he was against an increase in the power of the state which is based on violence Gandhi, therefore wanted to provide the institutions of trusteeship as a compromise between private enterprise and state controlled enterprise. This technique provide the resolution for the economic conflicts of the society.

Nonviolence Technique

one of the most common misconceptions about this approach to peace, nonviolence, is that it is a paradigm that enjoins passivity Gandhi showed the world way in modern times to fight for peace in a most non violent manner. revolution without the use of violence was the method by which Gandhi brought about the liberation of India. Its my belief that the problem of bringing peace to the worlds and to resolve the conflicts on a super national basis will be solved only by employing Gandhi's methods on a large scale. Gandhi chose to resolve conflicts in his life by the use of the tool of love and non violence

Conclusion:- Gandhiji maintained that there cannot be true and lasting peace unless there is equal opportunity for all: "You cannot have a good social system when you find yourself low in the scale of political rights, nor can you be fit to exercise political rights and privileges unless your social system is based of reason and justice". Gandhiji provide us a conflictless society by employing his technique politically it is a form of stateless society, socially it is a form of classless society where all persons are equally treated in every meners. So Gandhi's method of conflict resolution is based on a greater understanding and love between the two parties involved in it. He prescribed the trusteeship formula to the rich and the weapon of non violent, non cooperation or satyagraha to the poor and exploited to bring about a change in the attitude of the rich satyagraha is a technique of action where in the ideal of love would reign in the place of hatred and killing. It is based on truth, works through nonviolence and achieves its end by converting or compelling the opponent through self suffering.

Gandhi showed the world the way in modern times to fight for peace in a most nonviolent manner. Revolution without the use of violence was the method by which Gandhi brought about

the liberation of India. It is my belief that the problem of bringing peace to the world on a super national basis will be solved only by employing Gandhi's method on a large scale.

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