



LINE OF ACTION OF MAHATMA : SANITATION

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"Sanitation is more important than Freedom"..... Mahatma Gandhi.

During Calcutta annual congress Mahatma went there to attain the meat of congress men for very first time after returning from S Africa and find that Toilets were buzzing and spreading bad smell everywhere. Then he took up a broom and started cleaning the toilet, Gokhale went up to him asked what you are doing, then Mahatma said " it is more important than what is the agenda of Congress." That is Mahatma was giving more importance to sanitation. It is not possible to compare freedom with sanitation, and Also Mahatma was not wish to do so, because both concepts has different scopes, whereas freedom has political scope, therein sanitation has political but more than social and spiritual too. Mahatma had related both indirectly that is to say that, if environment is healthy, that makes people healthy and when people are healthy then society is healthy, then people not only think about freedom but really they have acquainted with its value too. This is the dream of Mahatma and that's why he said that Sanitation is more important than freedom.

when Sanitation is an individual fact then on this level it is not so powerful But When it become from individual to super individual, that is to say that the collectivity associated with the concept of Sanitation then practically things will appear before us. Mahatma had have that wish. He wanted to teach each and every citizen of rural and urban areas the value of sanitation through the organization of Congress. For Rural India, He had prepared the team Gram Sevaks to meet this challenge. He had wish from every gram sevak that he himself started the task of cleaning the village and talked to villagers about that benefits of sanitation. In starting it is not necessary that every one was ready to hear them but as time has been passing the value of sanitation speaks and rural people must follow him and adopted it collectively.

When Mahatma made his trip to cover whole country then he observed that Villages were in so bad condition. Once He wrote, ' Village of India seems to be dunghill. As entering in village we have to face dumb and bed smell everywhere near to village. 'I Then he decided to took up the challenge of sanitation and he worked for it organizationally and theoretically both. In actual sense this is the starting of Sociology of Sanitation in Indian Context. This has been accepted by a follower of Mahatma's philosophy Dr. Bindeshwari Pathak ji, during his address to the National Conference on SOCIOLOGY OF SANITATION; held New Delhi on 28/ 29 January, 2013, that he took up the goal for sanitation when he was nominated as the member of committee established for the centenary calibration of birth of mahatma in the year 1967.

Mahatma has elaborated his full plan regarding sanitation of both rural and urban areas. In his plan he discussed cleanness of area of habitation, collection of garbage, reproduction and recycling of garbage, benefits of sanitation, illness, hygiene, food culture, ayurveda and naturopathy and lot more. First of all we discussed Mahatma's view over rural area and then urban area.

RURAL AREA- Mahatma was very conscious and worry for the rural India in its condition made by the Britisher for the sake of their own interest. Mahatma was happily proud on the status of village established by ancient thinkers' and rishi. That is to say that Village was self sufficient in nature. Each and every thing has been created and produces by them what of their use. But Britishers were disturbed homogenous atmosphere of Indian village for fulfillment of their economic goals.



Mahatma, while his trip to the whole country, very sad after noticing the sanitation arrangement of villages. Once he wrote that when I pass through a village I only notice piles of garbage everywhere and bad smell has made its way forcibly from my nose to my mind.² For all this he has held the illiteracy responsible. So he suggested and organized the group of Gram Sevaks with in congress organization to make people aware about the issues of sanitation. He told or suggested the Gram Sevaks through his writing and lectures that started to talk to rural people regarding Sanitation and discussed its odd and even with them. It was quite possible that In beginning nobody would take you seriously but gradually the rural must understand what you tried to wish. So he emphasized more on the enlightened them for what condition are required to make them healthy.

He firstly pointed out the issue of toilets. He opposed this activity to discharge excrement in field rather open agricultural fields. He advocated for toilets (flush). He told the Gram Sevaks to motivate rural people to use Flush Toilets and made it in their houses with two sefty tanks in which excrement was collected. when One tank was full then use the second one. The excrement that has been collected in first tank turned into bio fertilizer that could be more cheep and profitable of their field and crops. Because chemical fertilizers were not only costly for farmers but had have side effect on human health too. Drainage system is also poor in our villages. In Village, bilge water in vessels was not flowing properly and stagnant at one state that helping in grow of mosquitoes and other harmful bacteria that were creating havoc with malaria and other diseases and in our country, lot of villagers passed away by these epidemics every year. Mahatma wrote in HarijanSevak " the works to be perform in villages are as where there are piles of garbage that must be shifted away from residential areas and cleaning of pounds and wells are also be done on priority basis because villagers consume water for drinking and bathing from these water sources.³

He also emphasized over collective animal husbandry. He had put forward the whole plan for it through his lectures and writings why it is necessary. In case Individual effort, farmers has to expend more on cattles for their feeding and proper medication but in collective approach the cast was very low. Collectively they could easily arrange pastoral land for cattle too. They could also perform proper marketing to sell the milk products and had have good profit out of it, which was not possible individually. In case of collective system, they could collect excrement and dump it at safe place and they could get bio fertilizer which can be useful in their fields and it is not only less expensive but also best for the health. Mahatma told once " beautiful and savory fertilizer can be found from excrement of animal, garbage and excrement of human. This is a golden gift. This is the fact that we are getting wealth from dust. Production of fertilizer is also a rural industry. That can be run when core of people can determine their participation in it, help."⁴

He had not only talked about the shifting of garbage from residential area but also about the proper use of it by recycling it. He described steps of decantation of garbage. In first step there is classification of garbage. That can be classified into three in which (i) that part can be recycled to make bio fertilizer (ii) the second part can be squeeze under the earth that recycled by Nature itself and (iii) can be changed in to physical asset. The bones of dead animal can be used as raw material, it will be exported to big and heavy industries, by this way a financial aid can be created for villagers. From the garbage the handmade paper can be made, it is also a rural industry and out of India there is a lot of demand for that type of paper.

So, we see here that mahatma's vision is multi dimensional and multi stated. He did not only talk about the sanitation but also wishes to improve all dimensions of life of villagers. But it is quite surprising that, we still facing the problems of sanitation, scope of employment in rural areas, health related issues, educational status, etc. in our rural India. Still the villages are having poor drainage system, poor arrangement of drinking water, no decantation arrangements for garbage, west water accrual on the streets and road of village. Etc. these blunders put our self-entrapped by the epidemics like meningitis (Mental Fever),



Malaria, typhoid, dysentery, and lot more diseases which originated from this mephitic collected in surroundings of our rural areas.

Mahatma was also emphasized over food culture of the rural as well as urban people. He advocated for the proper deity as well as hygienic too. He believed that if people are taking the proper deity and follow the norms of sanitation then they did not have to go to doctors in whole life. He advocate for use rice made by hand and flour from hand chhakee and wished that people did not use the rice and flour of mills because the chemical used in the processing of these products were dangerous to health.

Urban Area

"We can learn a fact from occident societies and we must have to learn and that is the science of cleaning of cities. Western people has created the science of community sanitation and health by which we have to learn a lot from it. Undoubtedly, we have to make significant change according to our environment in this science. Mahatma during his stay in England he had noticed the sanitation arrangements and he found that the occident society were have upper hand regarding cleaning and community health. He related the sanitation with the personality traits of an individual. He propounded and tried by his writing that the development of personality was not possible in inadequate and improper sanitation. That is if the environment is not clean then we cannot found a clean psyche and mind, therefore, we did not get good citizens and directly the development and progress of the country was affected.

Mahatma was of the view that Municipal Corporation could not clean the city and habitational area by keeping the men in service for sanitation, it could only extract taxes from the citizens. But it is necessary to have the feeling of service for all the action that would be performed for the welfare of people. In cities Mahatma was very worried about the condition of slum areas. Living conditions are not proper in slums of the cities and still we can notice the sanitation conditions in our metros like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, etc. the problems related to drinking water, polluted air, congetion, educational institutions, child labour, and etc. are some permanent belongings to the slums of the metros of country. There are so many studies conducted by our sociologist regarding the issues of metro slums and they point out the exiguities of sium areas. Mahatma said once that municipal corporation should be the main institution of sanitation of cities and they are not only responsible for external cleaning of cities but responsible for purifying the traits of social as well as community life. Mahatma had have keen interest in the activities of municipals and even he seemed the matter of proud to be the member of a municipal corporation but with the high degree of moral values and must not having any self-interest out of it. Mahatma have associated the holy theme of practical spiritualism, that is service towards the humanity, with the activities related to sanitation especially with municipal corporations. But recently the ballot battle for attaining power in the local administrative institutions has held in Uttar Pradesh, where we notice the behavior which must not matches with ideas or dreams of Mahatma. There are open game of money has been played by all political parties either in power or in opposition. In this election maximum billionnaires has elected to powers whose starting basics are not pure, they purchase the party tickets by their financial influences. So it is to say that if a person has purchased ticket and win the elections then it is not adequate to assume about his later action regarding the working as supreme of the municipal corporation will be as per the norms created by Mahatma. So it can be proper to say that working and process of election of municipal board is not proper as per the thoughts of Mahatma. May be this is the main reason that after 68 year of independence we do not have faith on our constitutional institution like Municipal corporation and other local bodies which has been getting authority from the constitution of India.

He also had put forward the plan for decantation of urban garbage too like rural. The collection and then classified the garbage in categories and tried to make these to useful for society. The sulabh



international is doing in this direction under the guardianship of Dr. Bindeshwari Pathak who himself accepting this fact that he carries the thought of Mahatma and try to reach the target set by him. By the collection of excrement Sulabh is producing light and gas in some parts of the country but this is not general aspect even if that type of collection is every where in the country. Sulabh is doing this by the help of its some volunteers, such activities are restricted to some part of the country because we do not have the participation of people regarding this issue. But if we understand and follow the feelings and suggestions of Mahatma, we can have produce electricity, have water for irrigation Produces the cooking gas and also save our river from pollution by these approaches of sanitation. For this we have to attain proper will even strong will to do this. Our policy maker have to make such national agenda and programs regarding this that to ensure the participation of people can be easily achieved.

But we still not be fully aware about the demerits of uncleaned atmosphere and even we are on the way to increase it day by day. In this connection i wished to mention two recent happening in our country which is due to happen because we have not proper sanitation all round. The very first but old pathetic event is of sufferers from mental fever (Meningitis) which is an acute inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord⁵. From last two decades, lakhs of children has passed away in low land regions of Himalyas, especially in Gorakhpur region of eastern Uttar Pradesh. Meningitisis typically caused by an infection with microorganism. Most infections are due to viruses, with bacteria, fungi and protozoa⁶. The main reason for all infections of the meningitis is the water logging in the rural and urban areas. The people crying that government has not taking steps for it, but nobody is ready to think about his responsibility towards this issue. Mahatma has urged that people were made aware about this issue of sanitation and motivated in such a way that to get rid from mephitis of their own by own self. The people has to follow the verses of mahatma and clean their village then they easily get rid of that epidemic. But, the people are staring at the government to do action against these mishappening. It is ridiculous that people are enjoying holiday at the birth day, 2nd October, of mahatma every year, but on one is following him.

The second event is mountain of mephitis near Ghazipur locality of outer Delhi. It odor is overlapped the vicinity residential area. It covers the canal flowing by side of it and it will be assumed that the mountain fully blocked in the coming future. Few months back the part of that mephitis mountain has fallen to adjacent road there minimum three persons were died under it. This was an accident but the infection created by hoard of garbage is put human health at risk for all time. It pollute the atmosphere of the locality. Here we again find the sane condition that people as well as the government is not following the verse of Mahatma. Garbage has shifted from the residential area it is have fine accordance with the teaching of Mahatma but decantation of the garbage was not followed what Mahatma has said. Due to this there is a mountain of mephitis now.

We are not only responsible for present but we will be more responsible for future too. What is the gift for our future generation by us, undoubtedly, it is the mountain of mephitis and epidemic like meningitis. We have to think seriously and act positively regarding this issue. Otherwise our future generation will have to take birth with masks and a lot other complexities because the polluted atmosphere must attack our bodily configurations and disturbed our physical chemistry too in coming future. In cenetery year of successful first satyagrah led by Mahatma in Champaran, Bihar against the neel traders supported by Britishers, we will took the oath to step forward to decantation of such mountain of mephitis and leave no way for such type of creations which makes fun on us and humanity feels shameful by our any acts. It must be the proper tribute to Mahatma ideology that led us to feel free.

I wish all the country men for completion of hundred years of Champaran Satyagrah and make a call for the establishment of GREEN INDIA, HEALTHY INDIA.



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