

BAPU- AN ENVIRONMENTALIST

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ABSTRACT

Mahatma Gandhi has always been a strong proponent of change which is to be brought in the society. Out of his many ideas of change and betterment, were ideas on environment- conserving and preserving the mother earth in several ways. The research objectives of the paper are to understand Bapu as an environmentalist, to correlate Gandhian environmentalism with present environmental conditions and policies and to measure levels of awareness about Gandhian environmentalism among the students. The present paper is based on data collected from secondary and primary sources. Gandhiji has always been a face of change in the society. He has made all attempts to correct the odds and wrongs in the society. His messages and philosophy have not been restricted to India alone, but has spread to all the countries he has lived and read later. The above study concludes that Gandhi was not only a person, he was an ideology which was relevant in past, is relevant at present and will be relevant in future also. He not only propagated environmentalism through his writings and speeches, but also through his life. He always believed in setting real life examples so that he can experiment with his teachings before telling it to others. As far as awareness is concerned, it is moderate among the students. However, only what is repeatedly broadcasted in news is famous and known among the students. Small changes can be brought in our lifestyle so that impacts of modern life can be minimised, and we don't get stuck in the vicious circle.

Keywords: Bapu, environmentalist, face of change, ideology, lifestyle changes

Introduction

Most of us know Mahatma Gandhi as a freedom fighter who helped India achieve independence in 1947, but how many of us really know that he was an environmentalist and whatever he commented and predicted in his era has come to be true at present! Mahatma Gandhi has always been a strong proponent of change which is to be brought in the society. Out of his many ideas of change and betterment, were ideas on environment- conserving and preserving the mother earth in several ways. The present paper tries to correlate Gandhian philosophy and views on environmentalism with the present. It also tries to analyse the awareness about Gandhi-an environmentalist among the students pursuing higher education.

Review of Literature

(Tiwari, 2019) The Earth has enough resources for our need but not for our greed is a very famous quote by Gandhiji. It has been repeated at several environmental conferences and is a part of the mission statement of many concerned committees. Though it was quoted long ago, it is still relevant today and needs to be kept in mind while framing policies and adopting new methods of living. (Guha, 2009) The life and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi has left a deep impact on the environmental policies and developments in India. The Chipko Movement marked the beginning of change due to Gandhian environmentalism and is still seen in fasts by Anna Hazare and other non-cooperation movements by other leaders like the Narmada Bachao Andolan.

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