

MAHATMA GANDHI AND SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract: Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat both are the Milestones of the building of 'Independent India'. However, there are some ideological facts which make them different from each other. In the present study, we will try to elaborate the role of Mahatma Gandhi as well as Bhagat Singh in the Indian National Movement, contradiction, sub contradiction and the comparison of their ideologies, so that the better understanding about both the personalities have been developed.

Keywords: Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, Indian National Movement, Mother India, Revolutionary.

1. INTRODUCTION:-

The name of M.K Gandhi or the Mahatma Gandhi is taken with honour and respect in the freedom struggle of India. He brought his principles of non-violence (such as Champaran movement, Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India movement) without any bloodshed and arms. He put his contribution in the Indian National Movement. We also know that coin has two sides just like that on the one side, Gandhi Ji was applying his non-violent means. On the other side, Bhagat Singh and the group of extremists were laying stress on that the British Empire could only be rooted out with extreme ways or Revolutionary ways. Bhagat Singh was one of the youngest leaders who lead the young generation so that the mother India would be free from the slavery of the British Crown.

2. METHOD:- A comparative method with historical analysis has been adopted in the paper. Also, the data has been collected from various published and unpublished sources.

3. ANALYSIS :- This paper is based on the analysis of various factors as given below -

- Look at the early lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh.
- Analyses of significant movements carried by Bhagat Singh and Gandhi Ji
- Analysis of the Ideological clashes between Bhagat Singh and Gandhi Ji
- Comparative analysis of the controversial issues related to both

Early life's incidents:- The study is based on the comparative method, so we have firstly compared the incidents of their early lives for the clarity of their Family background and source of motivation which influenced them to become the national heroes.

❖ **Mahatma Gandhi:-** Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869 at Porbandar, Gujrat. The name of his father was Karamchand Gandhi and his mother's name was Putli Bai. They reached London on 28th September 1888 and got admitted for being a barrister on 6th November 1888. On 10th June 1891, he returned to India and started his practice in Bombay and Rajkot, but he failed. after that he went to South Africa after taking a case of 'Dada Abdullah &Co.' in 1893. There he was thrown out from the first-class coach of the train at Natal which is the capital of Merit's burg. Gandhi Ji bitterly criticised this and took legal actions against it. In South Africa, he wanted to improve the lives of poor plights. Mahatma Gandhi Ji set up Natal Congress on 23rd May 1894 and started other movements as well. He became world-famous by doing so. In 1914-1915 Gandhi Ji returned to India permanently and started many Non-violence movements such as Quit India, civil Disobedience and other movements. He compelled the British government to Quit India. On 13th January 1948, Nathuram Godse fired at him, Gandhi Ji was died.

❖ **Bhagat Singh:-** Bhagat Singh was born on 28th September 1907 at Khatkar Kalan (Chak no.108), Loyalpur. The name of his father and mother were Kishan Singh and Vidyavati. His father and his uncle Ajit Singh were also freedom Fighters. In 1921 after his schooling Bhagat Singh got admission in the National College, Lahore. In the college, he came in to contact with Sukhdev, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Yashpal, Jai Dev

Gupta, Ram Krishan and others. Politics and History were the favourite subjects of Bhagat Singh. In March 1926, Bhagat Singh set up Young India Association (Naujawan Bharat Sabha) to put revolutionary spirit in the youth. He took an active part in the activities of the association. In 1928 he took part in Kisan Morcha and other revolutionary activities like Dusshera Bomb Case, on 17th December 1928 (Murder of Sandrus) and so on. With his two friends named Rajguru and Sukhdev Bhagat Singh got martyrdom on 23rd March, 1931.

Significant movements and activities run by both Bhagat Singh and Gandhi Ji

Movements of Gandhi Ji:- With this firm intention and his successful non-violence movements Gandhi was famous in South Africa, and he returned to India in January 1915. He tried to improve the plights of India & applied his principles in 1921. Gandhi Ji became the leader of Indian National Congress which was working without any discrimination on that time. There are three significant movements which had devoted their significance in the Indian National Movement

- ❖ **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920):-** This was the first movement of Gandhi Ji, lasting from September 1920 to 1922. He believed that India has cooperative nature towards British rulers that is why the Britishers were successful in being ruled over the Indians if the residents of the country stop being cooperative with the Britishers than the Britishers would be forced to give up. The movement gains popularity, and soon, millions of people were started opposing British rule. A large number of people left their government and non-government jobs, and students had left their Colleges and other institutions. However, there was an unwanted incident occurred during the non-cooperation movement because, at Chaura-Chauri (U.P), the individuals together burned the police station and also killed the police officials. Gandhi Ji was very disappointed with it, and he stopped the movement.
- ❖ **The civil disobedience movement & Salt Satyagraha (1930):-** In March 1930 the protesters took part in Dandi March which was a movement against the Taxes and British monopoly on Salt. Dandi March contained 240 miles. It was started with 79 followers and ended with a large number of people and was called a 'Salt War' against the Britishers. This act was accompanied by civil disobedience across the country. Gandhi Ji had given speeches on the salt Tax and staged the salt Satyagraha during the movement. The British authorities arrested Gandhi Ji. He was arrested before the group could be reached at the Dharsna Salt Works. This movement existed for one year, but it was unsuccessful in earning any concession from the Britishers.
- ❖ **Quit India movement (1942):-** Quit India movement began in August 1942 during World War 2. The Indian Congress Committee under the urging of Gandhi Ji called for a mass gathering against the British withdrawal, and Gandhi Ji made 'DO or Die' Speech. British officers acted immediately and arrested merely every member of the Indian National Congress.

Significant movements and Activities of Bhagat Singh:- During his college days, Bhagat Singh and his friends started taking part in significant movements of the independence struggle of India. Bhagat Singh followed hot minded ways or powerful ways for the sake of mother India's freedom. He did so many things which caused significant loss to the British government. Nevertheless, there is one thing which is vital that the main objective of extremists or krantikaries is to remove British rule from India; no innocent people were harmed during any activity carried by Bhagat Singh. Some of the major activities are as given below:-

- ❖ **Establishment of Young India Association (Naujawan Bharat Sabha)(1926):-** Bhagat Singh set up the Young India Association in 1926. It was a group of youngsters who aimed at together Indian farmers, labourers and to get them on one platform. It also brought them together to economic and social movements. This association was banned in 1929.
- ❖ **Murder of Sandrus (1927):-** On 17th December 1927, Bhagat Singh shot the British officer Sandrus. Jai Gopal was also with Bhagat Singh during this incident. It was a "tit for Tat" thing of Jilian Wala Bagh incident. Mr Scott was the real target, but at the same time, Sandrus appeared there & got killed. This incident accused an atmosphere of fear all around the British areas.
- ❖ **Bomb blast in British Assembly (1929):-** On 8th April 1929, Bhagat Singh throws a bomb with the help of his friend Datt, and he was arrested. This incident raised as an "Alarm" for the British Empire. They got against Bhagat Singh and arrested him.

Ideological Clashes between Gandhi Ji and Bhagat Singh:-

There are controversy and opposition between the ideology of Bhagat Singh and Gandhi Ji. They were opposite in thoughts on account of Indian National Movement. Here Gandhi Ji was in favour of non-violence because he had the

effect of Buddha, Jyotiba Rao Phoolke, Leo Tolstoy and David Theauro on him, that is why he was non-violent. On the other side, Bhagat Singh was inspired by Lenin, Who is a communist thinker. His ideology affected him, and he became a freedom fighter. By this way, the existence of non-violent ways established contradictions regarding the ways of Gandhi Ji. Bhagat Singh had not shown distrust on the principles of Gandhi Ji, but Bhagat Singh made a statement on Gandhi Ji that “ he was under the effect of Congress”. Indeed Gandhi Ji gave statements about freedom fighter from time to time.

Comparative analysis of the controversial issues regarding Bhagat Singh and Gandhi Ji:-

So many critics prove Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh opposite. They are putting great controversial blames on them. Let us analyse their criticism in the form of questions:-

Is Gandhi Ji responsible for the death of Bhagat Singh?

Writers who supported Bhagat Singh often blamed Gandhi Ji that he did not try to stop Bhagat Singh's hanging. First of all, we put here the fact that proved that Gandhi Ji was tried his best to save Bhagat Singh's life:-

- ❖ here is the first fact is that Gandhi Ji met with Lord Irwin (Vice Roy) on 18th and 19th March 1931. He discussed the krantikaries (Revolutionaries), he started his dialogue to postponed the punishment here "it is assumed that there was a possibility to establish peace if the punishment is given less and if they were hanged the peace might be in danger without any doubt". The viceroy told that the punishment could not be lessened and said Gandhi Ji could not say a word about the concession of the punishment of Bhagat Singh and his companions.
- ❖ The critics are proving Gandhi Ji wrong by giving the example of Lord Irwin's speech. However, one thing which everyone has to think that is it good to consider a British Officer? When we know that they would believe in 'Divide and Rule' policy.
- ❖ The other effect is that Bhagat Singh himself was not in favour of getting concession in his punishment because it was against the principles of Bhagat Singh. This fact is proved in the jail diary of Bhagat Singh on page 20, where Bhagat Singh wrote a quotation of Maxim Gorki (A Soviet Russian writer), " on the earth no person is hateful that who did give alms and that person is more coward who can take alms."
- ❖ So, on the above analysis we can say that Gandhi Ji met with Lord Irwin for the Forgiveness of Bhagat Singh's execution, but here is another fact is that Gandhi Ji could do appeal only because he had no authority to do anything in the British rule.

Is the word ‘terrorist’ suitable for the activities of Shaheed Bhagat Singh?

Several Indian writers, including Bipin Chandra, had used the word "Terrorist " for the revolutionary activities of Bhagat Singh and his companions. We can study this fact in the light of factors associated with this issue.

- ❖ The first issue which is considerable that how much it is right to call Bhagat Singh a terrorist on this basis of his principles. Firstly we have to know what is the definition of terrorism. In the United States, terrorism is defined as consisting of activities that "involve acts dangerous to human life that is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or any State..." but now if we think about Bhagat Singh, we can found that fulfilled any revolutionary incident for his interest. He only aimed to end the British Empire. Secondly, he never killed or targeted any innocent person. Thirdly it is only due to Bhagat Singh's struggle for which we are living in independent India. In the light Above it is not fair to use the word terrorist for these Krantikaries (Revolutionaries). The historian of Delhi university Bipin Chandra has used the word“terrorist” for Bhagat Singh in his book “India's Struggle for Independence”. he was opposed by almost every person who loves Bhagat Singh and loves India also. So despite calling Bhagat Singh a terrorist, he should be called a "Patriot" or Krantikari because he is the true son of mother India and his sacrifice is unforgettable. he devoted his whole life for the independence of India. So in the light of factors, as mentioned earlier, we did not agree with the statements of critics about Bhagat Singh's activities.

4. CONCLUSION:-

After comparing the facts we can conclude that Mahatma Gandhi Ji and Shaheed Bhagat Singh both have played an equally important role in the Indian National movement, there is the only difference of the ways and means which were used by Gandhi Ji in the form of non-violent means and on the other side by Bhagat Singh in a revolutionary way. With this another thing which is mostly asked that Gandhi Ji was responsible for the execution of Bhagat Singh but historical facts are clear about this myth because Gandhi Ji approached to the Lord' Irwin. in the last we can also found that Bhagat Singh is a national hero of India, his activities are had not proved harmful to any innocent person, so Word " patriots" is the best word for respecting him.

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