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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT: AN EXPLORATION OF THE PURSUIT OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT TO FULFIL MAHATMA GANDHI'S VISION

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Abstract

The greatest quality of a person is self-reliance. A self-reliant person can become a support for himself. If a person is self-sufficient, then he definitely does not need the help of anyone else. Our country of India has been one of the ancient cultures of the world and seeing the culture, colour and style of this country, we can say that India is already quite self-sufficient. The true meaning of self-reliance is to develop oneself with one's own skills. Every person wants that he should become self-reliant, whether it is through his lifestyle or his manner. The inspiration for India to become self-reliant came from Mahatma Gandhi's civil disobedience movement. Under this movement people stopped wearing foreign clothes and wore their own hand woven clothes. Now at present this campaign of India will fulfil that dream and India will become self-reliant. With the aim of making India self-reliant, the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, had announced this campaign on 12 May 2020, in which he addressed the country and said that this is a good initiative to improve India's economy. Under this campaign, most of the items will be manufactured in India in the coming few years. For this reason, the name of this campaign has been kept as self-reliant. Under this campaign, all those foreign dependencies are to be reduced, due to which most of India's trade is dependent on other neighbouring countries. In this, without relying on outside items, it is involved in this campaign to prepare good quality products at our own level outside in our country itself.

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Introduction:-

"Everyone wants to be strong and self-sufficient, but few are willing to put in the work necessary to achieve worthy goals."

-Mahatma Gandhi

In the ongoing times of current instability, while the pandemic like COVID-19 is making people desperate and helpless, on the other hand its economic consequences are also making people apprehensive about the future. In such

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a situation, the relevance of Gandhism becomes more than ever. So do we need to wear a cap or dhoti to adopt Gandhism or do we need to adopt celibacy or hate it? No, none of this needs to be done. Rather, there is a need to adopt Gandhism to remove the economic hurdles.

Now the question arises, what actually is Gandhism? The answer is non-violent resistance to any exploitation, service to others first, sacrifice before accumulation, truth instead of lies, concern for the country and society instead of oneself, etc. Gandhian ideas largely draw inspiration from ancient Indian philosophy and the relevance of these ideas is still intact. In today's era, when the place of welfare ideals in society is being replaced by narrow ideas like untruth, opportunism, deceit, cunning, greed and selfishness, then society is spreading higher ideals like tolerance, love, humanity, brotherhood. The world powers are engaged in a competition to collect arms but are proving helpless and unable to defeat a small virus. In such a situation, for the restoration of world peace, to re-establish human roots, today Gandhism has become more relevant than ever in a new form.

Gandhian philosophy is not only political, moral and religious, but also traditional and modern and simple and complex. It embodies many of the Western influences that Gandhi was exposed to, but is rooted in ancient Indian culture and follows universal moral and religious principles. Gandhi ji developed these ideologies from various inspirational sources like Bhagavad Gita, Jainism, Buddhism, Bible, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Tolstoy, John Ruskin etc. Tolstoy's book 'The Kingdom of God is Within You' had a deep impact on Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi took the principle of 'Sarvodaya' from Ruskin's book 'Unto this Last' and brought it to life.

Although the word Swaraj means self-government, Gandhi ji called it an integral revolution that covers all walks of life. For Gandhi, Swaraj meant Swaraj (self-government) of the individuals and therefore he clarified that for him Swaraj meant freedom for his countrymen and Swaraj in its fullest sense was much more than freedom.

Gandhi's principle of 'Gram Swaraj' was to ensure the access of governance to the people at the end of rural society through the establishment of self-reliant and autonomous village panchayats. In economic matters also, Gandhi used to emphasize the establishment of small, micro and cottage industries through decentralized economy. He was of the opinion that after the establishment of heavy industries, the toxic gases and smoke emitted from them pollute the environment, as well as the existence of very large industries also prepares the way for the exploitation of the working class. Today, in the era of this epidemic, when the whole world is once again seeing the danger of going towards economic recession, the establishment of these cottage industries will prove to be a ray of hope for the poor workers.

The word Swadeshi is derived from Sanskrit and is a combination of two Sanskrit words. 'Swa' means self and country means country itself i.e. own country. Swadeshi is taken literally from one's own country but in most contexts it can be taken as self-reliance. Indigenous focuses both politically and economically within their community. It is the interdependence of community and self-reliance. Gandhi believed that this would lead to independence (Swaraj), as British control of India was vested in the control of their indigenous industries. The Swadeshi campaign was the key to India's independence and was represented by the spinning wheel in Mahatma Gandhi's creative programmes. Today, when countries like America and China are bent on empowering their country through trade war and weakening the economic system of other countries. In such a situation, this concept of Swadeshi will prove like a boon to the domestic industries and artisans of the country.

Objectives:-

In order to accurately understand the entire idea of a self-reliant India, the current study has established certain logical premises. The present study encompasses the following objectives to develop a deep understanding of the subject matter:

1. To comprehend the idea of Atmanirbhar Bharat as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi.
2. To expound the pathway of Atmanirbhar Bharat as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.
3. To highlight the initiatives of the present Government towards making India Self-reliant.

Methodology:-

Methodology is of paramount significance in any research related activity and research design presents the blueprint of the work being conducted. In this context the present research paper follows an exploratory research design. The authors have made an extensive literature survey and have adequately gone through different kinds of literature like

economic journals, politics related blogs and websites available on varied platforms related to Atmanirbhar Bharat Programme. Economic Advisors and Political Experts of a definite caliber have also been consulted as the concerned subject is still in its nascent stage from the perspective of self-reliant India research. The views and insights of almost all the subject experts have been inducted in the paper at different junctures.

Mahatma Gandhi's pathway to Atmanirbhar Bharat

In the context of education, Gandhi used to emphasize on studying and earning a living together. Today, when unemployment is such a big problem of the country, then it will be beneficial to make education policies keeping this idea of Gandhi ji in mind. Gandhi's idea of the nation was also very progressive. His nationalism was inspired by the expansion of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. He used to emphasize the ultimate end of nationalism, not only limited to the interests of a nation, but to expand it towards the welfare of the world. Seeing the extreme nature of nationalism nowadays, Gandhian nationalism seems accurate. We find that Gandhi ji's thoughts are eternal. The biggest reason for this is that he tested his ideas on the ground and achieved success in life which was not for him only but for the whole world. Today the world sees Gandhi's path as the most enduring one.

Gandhi ji was always of the view that education is the medium which produces such capable and capable citizens. Indian knowledge, tradition, culture and civilization have been the oldest and richest in the world. It is considered the mother of all the cultures of the world. Be it the art of living, science or the field of politics, Indian success has always had a special place. The fame of Indian knowledge has been around the world since time immemorial. If India was the richest community in the world till the arrival of the British, it was only because of its education. If there is a shortage of natural resources in any country, then it can be imported from outside. Similarly, if needed, some experts can also be called from outside, but citizens of character cannot be imported. Citizen of character means patriotic, courageous, mighty, sacrificial, patient, humble and knowledgeable, temperate and self-realized citizen. Such citizens are the real capital of the country. This creation is possible only through education. Such citizens do not drip from the sky anywhere. They have to be developed. This work is not only the need of the country but also the need of the entire humanity and even the whole world. In this place we can see the important role of family, teachers and educational institutions in education. If a doctor, engineer or contractor makes a mistake, then this mistake can be corrected after some time and it affects only a few people, but due to the mistake of a teacher, the whole breed can be ruined and it is possible to compensate for that loss.

Gandhi ji wrote, "What is the meaning of education? If it means only alphabet-knowledge, then it has become like a means. It can be used for good and it can also be used for bad. The sick can be cured by tearing with a weapon and the same weapon can also be used to kill someone. The same is true of alphabetical knowledge. Many people make bad use of it, that's what we see. Few people make good use of it in proof. India is in the fascination of western civilization. The one who has received that education should make good use of it. In dealing with the British, in dealing with such Indians, we cannot understand our own language and how the British themselves have become troubled by their own civilization, English should be used to understand. The children of those who have studied English should first be taught their mother tongue and other language of India mandatorily. Children may get English education when they are of solid age, and that too with the intention of erasing it, and not with the intention of earning money through it. Gandhi ji raised fundamental questions related to the education system."

Gandhi ji considered English civilization and English civilizational education more dangerous than English power. 'Hind Swaraj' does not mean Indian Raj instead of English Raj. The meaning of Hind Swaraj is to build the future of India only in the inner, voice and self-containment of self-culture, self-civilization and self-nation. According to the education philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, education should be such that the child's body should develop because according to him, a healthy mind is formed in a healthy body. That is why first of all he emphasized on physical development. He opined that just as a baby needs mother's milk for physical development. Similarly, education is needed for mental development. On personal and social development, he was of the opinion that the individual lays emphasis on the development of society and the nation. Social development means spiritual development is possible only by loving human beings in the society and serving human beings.

Gandhi ji laid special emphasis on the need for knowledge of culture for spiritual development. According to him, culture plays an important role in education philosophy. Through education, the qualities of truth, non-violence, celibacy, tastelessness, non-possession and dependence etc. should be developed in the child. Economic development used to emphasize on vocational education for the freedom of want and wants to make man self-reliant that is why he emphasizes on handicraft and industry. The ultimate aim of human life is considered to be liberation,

self-realization and self-realization. Gandhi ji laid equal emphasis on knowledge, action, bhakti and yoga which gives the embodiment of non-violence and Satyagraha.

Indian Government's initiatives towards self-reliance

The present government has been very keen at implementing the Gandhian concept of self-reliance in letter as well as in spirit. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government through its flagship program named "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" has taken steps to comprehend and implement the ideas of Gandhi ji for making India self-reliant.

Exhibit 1.1

(Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan of Indian Government)



Source: <https://www.bmconsulting.in/blog/small-steps-that-india-is-taking-towards-atmanirbhar-bharat/>

The results of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated are yielding substantial benefits which are mentioned below-

1. The way for 74 percent foreign investment has been opened in the field of defence manufacturing. After which India itself will increase production to meet its defence needs. Due to this the number of jobs in the country will increase. For this, many steps have been taken like improvement in licensing process, preparation of level playing field, simplification of export process, improvement in the provisions of objet.
2. Self-reliant India has announced a big relief package. 45 lakh MSME units will benefit from the economic package. They have been provided with a loan of 3 lakh crores. Moreover no guarantee will be required for this loan.
3. The Modi government is so eager to make India self-reliant that the package it has announced for this is more than the GDP of 150 countries like Pakistan, Vietnam, Portugal, Greece, Romania and New Zealand.
4. PM Modi has kept the command of self-reliant India in his own hands. For this, he is holding regular meetings. In the meeting with the ministers, he not only takes information about the plans of his department, but also asks them for suggestions to make the self-reliant India campaign a success.
5. India is becoming increasingly self-reliant in the field of defence production. In August, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that the import of 101 defence equipment has now been banned. Their production and manufacture will now be done in India only.
6. PM Modi gave the slogan to convert disaster into opportunity and told that when the Corona crisis started, not a single PPE kit was made in India. There was a nominal production of N-95 masks in India. Today the situation

is that 2 lakh PPE and 2 lakh N-95 masks are being made in India every day. This vision of India to convert disaster into opportunity is going to be equally effective for India to be self-reliant.

7. The Prime Minister clearly said that self-reliance is possible only with self-confidence. Self-reliance also prepares the country for tough competition in the global supply chain.
8. The government plans that rural women will be made brand ambassadors of the products which will be made at the local level. For this purpose, this was also announced in a meeting of women taking advantage of the Ujjwala scheme. Due to which the women appeared very happy.
9. The special thing is also that making a self-reliant India does not mean that India has given up its path of industrialization. It will continue unabated as before. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has made it clear that business will continue in the country as before with global supply chains and trusted partners. Different areas have been earmarked for this.
10. The Prime Minister, while giving his speech from the Red Fort on 15 August 2020, had clearly said that the campaign of self-reliant India is not against the rest of the world. We are moving ahead with the mantra of 'Make in India'. One Nation-One Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Merger of banks is the reality of the country today. The impact of these reforms and the results that came out of it is visible. Last year, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India broke all the records so far. There has been an increase of 18 percent in FDI in India. Today many big companies of the world are moving to India.

Exhibit 1.2

(Sectoral Allocation under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan)

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of Sector	Total Monetary Allocation	Percentage Allocation
01	FMCG	81000	16.20%
02	Healthcare	67500	13.50%
03	Technology	61000	12.20%
04	Financial	58500	11.70%
05	Communication	42500	8.50%
06	Services	36500	7.30%
07	Chemicals	36000	7.20%
08	Energy	32500	6.50%
09	Consumer Durables	28500	5.70%
10	Construction	23500	4.70%
11	Automobile	20000	4.00%
12	Metals	7500	1.50%
13	Others	5000	1.00%
	Total	5,00,000	100%

Source: <https://www.elearnmarkets.com/blog/atma-nirbhar-bharat-abhiyan/>

Conclusion and Recommendation:-

In conclusion it can be said that Mahatma Gandhi was not only devoted to making the country independent, but he also gave the idea of making India self-reliant economy. Accordingly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started the self-reliant India campaign. Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts are extremely relevant even in the time of the current Corona crisis. Every citizen can make the country self-reliant by taking advantage of Gandhi's thoughts and philosophy. Reviving the economy is the priority of the government. Many sectors which were closed till now have been opened to the private sector. These reforms will help in increasing the pace of economic growth in the times to come. The relevance of Gandhi ji is well known. There is no part of life where Gandhi ji's ideas do not seem relevant.

The success of self-reliant India campaign can be achieved only by following the path of Swadeshi and skill by the citizens of the nation while imbibing the duties towards the nation. In any case, along with scientific achievements, we have to move ahead by taking together various skilful disciplines of Indian and ancient traditional, so that proper and useful solution of the looming problem can be found. For this, the government will have to make a very strong policy. To set up small and micro industries, an army of young generation will have to be prepared and this work should be started from the village of the country. But before that, the infrastructure of transport, electricity, water and internet will have to be strengthened in the villages as well as there will be availability of raw materials and

markets for manufactured goods. The goal of making India self-reliant is certainly difficult but not impossible. With relentless efforts with strong will power, India can achieve the destination of self-reliance.

In spite of the many challenges facing the self-reliant India campaign, India needs to invest in those enterprises in order to strengthen the industrial sector in which India has the potential to emerge as a global power. There is a need to empower the citizens of the country so that they can solve the problems related to the country and contribute in building a growing India. The nation requires the services of its citizens and the citizens cannot afford to back off.

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