

AWARENESS ON LIFE AND PRINCIPLES OF GANDHIJI AMONG CHILDREN'S OF ALCOHOLICS

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ABSTRACT

How we rekindle the interest of the present and future generation of India in the teachings of Gandhi is an important question in the present scenario. This can be done by introducing "Gandhian Teachings" in the curriculum of our schools and colleges. At this time, it is worth mentioning that NCTE in 1978, as a first step, recommended the Teacher Education Institution should strive to produce teachers who should develop Gandhian values in them. Many universities have introduced at undergraduate level course in Gandhian studies, and in some universities there are post graduate departments for 'Gandhian' studies. So we should seriously start thinking about introducing courses in "Gandhian studies" at school and college level.

INTRODUCTION

Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi, the father of our nation, whom we call "Bapu" out of reverence, dominated the Indian scene well over hundred years. Gandhiji stands far apart from other national and political leaders in that he never aspired to wield any political power or desired any place in the Government of the country. His place was in the hearts of the people, and he was able to mobilize the common man more than any politician in history. Perhaps his place in history is aptly expressed by the last viceroy to India, Lord Mount Batton who wrote:

"Mahatma Gandhi will go down in history on par with Budha and Jesus Christ".

Mahatma Gandhi promise to his mother of not touching alcohol before leaving for his higher studies in Britain and abiding by the promise till his death shows his conviction and strong moral principles towards life. He believed that alcohol consumption is a sin as it impairs the ability to think rationally. When a person behaves without any control on his senses then the question of rationality, morality etc do not hold good irrespective of the situation and the person. Gandhi said that Happiness is when "What you think, What you say and What you do are in harmony". But Consumption of alcohol creates a situation where our actions and thoughts are in disharmony leading to sadness many times.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Gandhi's principles on non violence, human freedom, equality, justice etc are relevant in the present scenario. His religion was truth (satya) and non violence (ahimsa). His 'basic education' (Nai Talim) promotes work as a spiritual activity. He believed alcohol consumption is a sin.

Education is meant for modification of behavior. Nowadays children facing so many problems such as, alcohol addiction, insecurity, lack of truthfulness, inequality, injustice etc. Today's world

considers education only as a means for acquiring wealth. So Gandhi's principles and values are very relevant and are to be taught to our students.

Present curriculum for the students in Kerala have lot of programme like celebration of Gandhi Jayanthi, Gandhi Darshan Club activities etc. Gandhi's life and principles are taught to the students through different lessons from standard 1 to 10 (Table 1). In the present study an attempt is made to analyze the awareness on life and principles of Gandhiji among secondary school students.



Table 1. Concepts in the present text books of State Syllabus.

No.	Concept	Standard	Subject	Chapter
1	Gandhi Jayanthi	1	Social Science	13
2.	Father of the Nation	2	Social Science	14
3.	Simplicity	3	Social Science	7
4.	Gandhiji as a leader	4	Social Science	7
5.	Work is worship	5	Social Science	3
6.	Simplicity	5	Malayalam	5
7.	Grama Swaraj	6	Social Science	6
8.	Gandhi as a social reformer	7	Social Science	3
9.	Satyagraha	8	Social Science	6
10.	Non violence	8	Social Science	6
11.	Self Sufficiency	8	Malayalam	2
12.	Social Commitment	8	Malayalam	5
13.	Do or die	8	Social Science	6
14.	Equality	9	Social Science	9
15.	Humanitarian	9	Hindi	2
16.	Religious reformation	10	Social Science	8

OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the present study are the following:

1. To compare the awareness of school students basically children of alcoholics on Gandhi's life and principles on the basis of ;
 - a. Gender: Boys/Girls
 - b. Locality of School: Rural/Urban c. Type of school : Govt./Aided
2. To Compare the awareness of school students of alcoholics on Gandhi's life on the basis of
 - a. Gender: Boys/Girls
 - b. Locality of school: Rural/Urban c. Type of school: Govt./Aided
3. To Compare the awareness of secondary school students basically children of alcoholics on Gandhi's principles on the basis of
 - a. Gender: Boys/Girls
 - b. Locality of school: Rural/Urban c. Type of school: Govt./Aided
4. To classify the students of alcoholics into categories as above average/average and below average on the basis of their awareness on Gandhi's life and principles.

METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF

For the present study Normative Survey method was used. 520 Students basically children's of alcoholics were selected by random sampling method from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasargod Districts of Kerala (14 districts). The sample includes boys and girls, students from govt. and aided schools and from rural and urban areas. Multiple choice questionnaire is prepared and used as a tool to evaluate the awareness of students. Arithmetic mean and critical ratio were used to compare the student's awareness.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table. 2. Awareness of secondary school students of alcoholics on Gandhi's life and principles on the basis of (a) Gender: Boys/Girls (b). Locality of school: Rural/Urban (c). Type of school: Govt./Aided.

Sl.No.	Sample	N	A.M	S.D	Critical ratio	
1.	Gender	Boys	246	13.72	3.62	0.37
	Girls	274	13.83	3.06		
2.	Location	Urban	247	14.20	3.44	2.57* Rural
		273	13.40	3.67		
3.	Type of school	Govt.	156	13.40	3.36	4.08* Aided
		364	14.75	3.68		

* Significant at.01 level

The mean percentage of awareness about Gandhi's life and personality among boys is obtained as 13.72 with S.D 3.62 and those for girls are 13.83 and 3.06 respectively.

The mean percentage about the awareness in urban area obtained as 14.20 with standard deviation 3.44 and those for rural area are 13.4 and 3.67 respectively.

The mean percentage about the awareness in Govt. is obtained as 13.4 with standard deviation 3.36 and those for aided are 14.75 and 3.68 respectively.

Table. 3. To Compare the awareness of students of alcoholics on Gandhi's life on the basis of (a). Gender: Boys/Girls (b). Locality of school: Rural/Urban (c). Type of school: Aided/Govt.

Sl.No.	Sample	N	A.M	S.D	CR
1	Gender Boys	246	9.00	2.28	1.41
	Girls	274	9.24	1.47	
2.	Location Urban	247	9.50	2.09	3.26
	* Rural	273	8.90	2.10	
3.	Type of school Govt.	156	9.00	2.12	1.01
	Aided	364	9.20	2.04	

* Significant at .01 level

The mean percentage of awareness for boys is obtained as 9 with S.D. 2.28 and those for girls are 9.24 and 1.47 respectively. The C.R. shows that the awareness about Gandhi's life among girls and boys is not significant at 0.01 levels.

The mean percentage about the awareness in urban area obtained as 9.50 with standard deviation 2.09 and those for rural area are 8.90 and 2.10 respectively. There is significant difference between urban and rural area students.

The sample C.R (1.01) shows that the awareness about Gandhi's life among Govt. and aided children of alcoholics is significantly different.

Table.4. To compare the awareness of students of alcoholics on Gandhi's principles on the basis of (a). Gender: Boys/Girls (b). Locality of school: Rural/Urban (c). Type of school: Aided /Govt.

Sl.No.	Sample	N	A.M	S.D	C.R
1.	Gender Boys	246	4.60	1.80	0.28
	Girls	274	4.56	1.34	
2.	Location Urban Rural	247	4.70	1.81	1.26
	Rural	273	4.50	1.80	
3.	Type of school Govt. Aided	156	4.50	1.79	1.16
	Aided	364	4.70	1.82	

The mean percentage of awareness for boys is obtained as 4.60 with S.D 1.80 and those for girls are 4.56 and 1.34 respectively. The C.R shows that the awareness about Gandhi's principles among girls and boys are not significant at .01 levels.

The sample C.R (1.16) shows that the awareness about Gandhi's principles among Govt. and aided secondary school children is not significant at .01 level.

There is no significant difference on the awareness about Gandhi's principles among urban and rural students.

Table. 5. To classify the students of alcoholics into categories are above average, average and below average on the basis of their awareness on Gandhi's life and principles.

Awareness	Number	Percentage	Above average	Number	Percentage
Above average	104	20			
Average	317	61			
Below Average	99	19			

As per this table most of the students (61%) belongs to the average category; 19% students belongs to below average and 20% students had more awareness about Gandhi's life and principles.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

* This study that there is no significant difference between girls and boys in awareness on life and principles of Gandhi.* As per this study there is significant difference between urban and rural students in awareness on life and principles of Gandhi. Urban category students have more awareness on Gandhi's life and principles.

* This study shows that there is significant difference between Govt. school students and aided school students in awareness on life and principles of Gandhi. Aided school students have more awareness on Gandhi's life and principles.

* According to this study there is no significant difference between the Govt. school students and aided school students in awareness on the life of Gandhi.

* The main outcome of the study is that students have more awareness on Gandhi's life than that of his principles.

* This study point out that only a few number of students (20%) are well aware of life and principles of Gandhi.

CONCLUSION

How we rekindle the interest of the present and future generation of India in the teachings of Gandhi is an important question in the present scenario. This can be done by introducing "Gandhian Teachings" in the curriculum of our schools and colleges. At this time, it is worth mentioning that NCTE in 1978, as a first step, recommended the Teacher Education Institution should strive to produce teachers who should develop Gandhian values in them. Many universities have introduced at undergraduate level course in Gandhian studies, and in some universities there are post graduate departments for 'Gandhian' studies. So we should seriously start thinking about introducing courses in "Gandhian studies" at school and college level.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

* Measures should be adopted for fostering the awareness on Gandhi's life and principles among students of all levels.

* The topics on Gandhi's life and principles in text books are to be designed according to the mental development of the children.

* There are many thought provoking life stories of Gandhiji in the Malayalam and Hindi text books of standard 8 and 9. Such topics can be added more in the text books of UP and LP sections.

* ICT facilities can be used for imparting knowledge and awareness about Gandhiji's life, Personality and principles especially in elementary classes.

* Educational practices should be purposefully created to impart the values and principles of Gandhi.

* From the school stage itself students should be familiar with vocational training and the concept of self sufficiency.

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