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Challenges in the 21st Century & Need of Gandhian Ideology



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Gandhi got the power of sport

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Abstract:

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returned to India in 1891, months after completing his law degree in England. Had he stayed on, Gandhi may have registered the sensation Ranji a fellow Kathiawari, whose letter of introduction was among the three he had car... Whether Ranji's achievements would have impressed Gandhi is another matter. By his own admission, Gandhi found it difficult to interest himself in sports and held a cricket bat only once during his school years.

Key Words: Football, Cricket, Sporting Spirit.

Introduction:

It is widely believed that Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi had no links with sports. There is rarely any reference of the Mahatma playing or endorsing a sport in the pages of history. However, he can't be simply tagged as anti-sports. Gandhi was mainly involved in political and socio-economic movement. At that time people were more bothered about freedom and rights, and sports was never a priority. However, according to a report by *The New York Times*, Gandhi was a key member of the group of Indians who helped found the Transvaal Indian Football Association in 1896. Professor of African History at Michigan State University, Peter Alegi, describes it as the "first organized football group in Africa that was not run by whites." According to Gandhian Scholar Dr Yogendra Yadav, Mahatma was a football fan. "Mahatma Gandhi loved football very much. He mentioned in his letters, speeches and articles many time. He knew it that anyone can get best exercise through game," he wrote in the Peace and Collaborative Development Network website.

In Yadav's essay on 'Football and Mahatma Gandhi' at the professional networking site, he quoted the Father of the Nation as comparing sports with farming, "Sport indulged in for the sake of developing the body is of some use. But we venture to suggest that agriculture; the inherited occupation of Indians indeed of the human race is better sport than football, cricket and all other games put together. And it is useful, dignified and remunerative. Football and cricket may be well for those who have the drudgery of the desk work to go through from day to day..." Though is some reference of Mahatma playing cricket in 1905, there is no evidence of the same. There is a Mahatma Gandhi Cricket Stadium in Salem, Tamil Nadu. The stadium was built in 1973 and seven first class matches were played there till date. Fair play and honesty being the basic essence of sporting spirit, propagated by the International Olympic Committee. and a key Gandhian philosophy is honesty. Thus it enhances the linkage of sports to the Father of the Nation in more ways than one.

Link between Gandhi and sports

It is said that he was one of the founders of one of the football clubs in Africa, so it's significant. So it is necessary to study the connection between Gandhi and sports. Gandhi believed in building teams for the national project.

Relevance of Gandhi to the youth today

At the time of independence struggle, which Gandhi led, sports was not a top priority – our priorities lay somewhere else. But it would have been good had Gandhi actively promoted sports too. But the priorities then were remarkably different, and generations of Indians will remain grateful and

indebted to Gandhi for what he did for us. But his contribution is greatly forgotten. Gandhi would be surprised by the attention we give to cricket today, and not to a sport like football

Its someone asks us about Gandhi's biggest contribution to India. What was Gandhi's biggest contribution to India, or even the world us would say he taught us the value of non-violence and non-violent struggle. One has to be patient in undertaking non-violent struggles. So he was a very patient leader and listener too. Among the present sports, cricket is the game where you have to play with a lot of patience. I thus think Gandhi would have loved the game of cricket in its present form a part from that it is essential to create interest in soccer also.

So we need to encourage more kids playing football. One such initiative is through the Indian Football Foundation, where the founders Endeavour to collect as many footballs and distribute to kids around different parts of the country. This is a small gesture towards the kids, and the efforts to popularize the game of soccer at the grassroots level are noteworthy.

Politics is the most effective tool of making policies and changing the scenario.

It is because policies in terms of sports, education, health, everything emanates from politics. It's the politicians who make the policies. So it's important that we need good people coming and winning elections and getting into parliament and assemblies so that they make the right policies and they have the right ideas and they do it with sincerity. In the run-up to the elections, we promised in Sikkim that sports would be a fundamental right for its citizens. So polyicians with sporting background should be give more power to popularize sport activities.

Gandhi-Mandela event

it's great initiative in organizing such events. It will motivate a lot of youth to learn what Gandhi did and what Mandela did and both these global leaders left behind rich legacies. So lot of our young Indians would like to be associated with the platform.

Conclusion:

Fair play and honesty being the basic essence of sporting sprit, propagated by the International Olympic Committee and a key Gandhian philosophy is honesty. Thus it enhances the linkage of sports to the Father of the Nation in more ways than one. It is said that he was one of the founders of one of the football clubs in Africa, so it's significant. So it is necessary to study the connection between Gandhi and sports. Indians will remain grateful and indebted to Gandhi for what he did for us. But his contribution is greatly forgotten. Gandhi would be surprised by the attention we give to cricket today, and not to a sport like football. Biggest contribution to India, or even the world us would say he taught us the value of non-violence and non-violent struggle. One has to be patient in undertaking non-violent struggles. Gandhi-Mandela event it's great initiative in organizing such events. It will motivate a lot of youth to learn

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