

From Director's Desk

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi known as Mahatma Gandhi is one of the most charismatic and dynamic personalities in the 20th century who has left a great impact on the mankind. Today, humanity is faced with unprecedented global challenges. The World community in its long recorded history has never experienced the kind of threat posed by the global terrorism and climate change.

The Only way to save the human beings from the magnitude of such problems is the application of Gandhi's concept of truth, non-violence, respect for nature and justice for the poor. The Gandhi study Centre of this college has made an effort to explore the Gandhian philosophy and ideas to a possible extent since 2012. One of the basic goals of the study centre is to send the message of truth and non-violence which was the foundation of all his merits and virtues to the masses at all levels aiming to form a new society based on the principals of moral and democratic values. For this purpose, the study centre has successfully carried on number of programmes including National Seminar and National Workshop as well as quiz competition, special talk and teaching on Gandhi's life and philosophy.

We cannot look for peace without Gandhi because Gandhi is the symbol of peace and harmony. It is our fundamental duty to cherish and follow the noble ideas which Gandhi propagated in his entire life to free the mankind from exploitation of any kind.

Bijoy Phukon

Director

Gandhi Study Centre

Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College

Sivasagar, Assam

Editor's Column:

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, worked not only for the political liberation of the nation, but for liberation of all the suppressed and oppressed sections of the society. Among these all one of the important issues is 'awakening of women'. He thinks that women are gifted with equal capacities and therefore they have equal rights. However due to the forces of custom, ignorant men is enjoying superiority over women. He was in the favor of women education because of the poor condition of women in India. Gandhiji strongly favored the emancipation of women and he went so far as to say that "the women have come to look upon me as one of them" he opposed purdah, child-marriage, untouchability and the extreme oppression of Hindu widows and sati's.

Gandhiji was of the opinion that there should be no differences between men and women. Women should never be given inferior or secondary position. He said, "My opinion is that just as fundamentally men and women are one, their problems must be one in essence. The soul in both is the same. The two live the same life, have the same feelings. Each is a complement of the other. The one cannot live without the other's active help." Regarding the role of women, Gandhiji once said, "Womanhood is not restricted to the kitchen." He opined and felt that, "Only when the woman is liberated from the slavery of the kitchen that her true spirit may be discovered." It does not mean that women should not cook, but only that household responsibilities be shared among men, women and children. Gandhi laid more emphasis on the role of women in the political, economic and social emancipation of the country. Under his guidance and leadership women came out from their houses and joined India's struggle for independence. Gandhiji had tremendous faith in women's inherent capacity for non-violence and therefore he encouraged women's active participation in the freedom struggle. Because of Gandhiji's

encouragement women became aware of their inner strength. In this regard Gandhiji's doctrine relating to women's rights and empowerment are highly relevant today. The present society where humanity, non-violence and particularly respect for women are highly degraded, the principles, ideas and concepts of Gandhiji should be practiced to save our society from destruction. His thoughts, philosophy and the message are very much relevant in the present socio-economic scenario also.

The Gandhi Study Centre and Women Cell of Jhanji Hemnath Sarma College organised a National Seminar on 'Gandhian Philosophy and Women Empowerment' and Teachers, Research Scholars and Students of different educational institutions participated and presented papers on different topics related to the main theme. The primary objective of this seminar was to focus, analyse and search the relevance of Gandhian Philosophy regarding women empowerment. In this volume a few selected papers of this seminar are published in the book form on the title, Gandhian Philosophy and Women Empowerment. During the organization of seminar and now in its last endeavour a number of individuals extended me their whole hearted support and co-operation in various ways. I received generous services extended by various persons. I express my sincere regards and gratitude to the UGC sponsored Gandhi Study Centre for providing financial assistance for conducting the whole programme. I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Manjit Gogoi sir, Principal, Jhanji H.N.S. College and Bijoy Phukon Director, Gandhi Study Centre of this college and other respected advisors and members of the editorial board for extending co-operation to bring out the present volume. I am also thankful to the staff of Binayak Offset, Sivasagar for their help on settings, printing and other works of the book.

Dr Santana Dutta
Editor

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