

Salt as Symbol of Protest during the Dandi Satyagraha

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ANNOTATION

Mahatma Gandhi served as the leader of the nonviolent liberation movements in South Africa and India against British rule. He was also an advocate for the civil rights of Indians. Gandhi, an Indian citizen who was born in Porbandar, got a law education and participated in boycotts of British institutions as a nonviolent form of civil disobedience. Gandhi led them in the 400-kilometer (250-mile) Dandi Salt March in 1930, which was held in opposition to the British-imposed salt levy. Gandhi led them in 1942 when they demanded that the British leave India. Due to his several convictions, he spent a large period of time in prison in both India and South Africa. How did Mahatma Gandhi fight for universal freedom? Gandhi was a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement who organized the fight against British colonial rule, fought against anti-Indian legislation in the courts, and planned sizable protests against the colonial government. He developed a public persona along the way and an ideology he called Satyagraha. A philosophy known as Satyagraha places a strong emphasis on nonviolent resistance and the pursuit of the truth. He was given the honorary title of "Father of the Nation" or "Bapu" in honor of his important contributions to the struggles for Indian independence and his support of nonviolence. Gandhi encouraged and supported a huge number of nonviolent rallies and marches during the struggle for Indian independence. These protests were entirely consistent with the concept of nonviolent conduct. Investigating and explaining Gandhiji's usage of salt as a symbol of his protest during the Dandi Satyagraha is the goal of this study as well as to evaluate the significance and impact of Dandi march on the national movement?

KEYWORDS: Dandi March, Salt, Formula and significance etc.

1. Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi decided to walk through various villages, stopping regularly to hold talks, in order to prepare the audience for civil disobedience. On March 12, 1930, at 6.30 a.m., Gandhiji and 78 of his handpicked supporters/Satyagrahis began their 386-kilometer (241-mile) march from Ahmadabad's Sabarmati/Satyagraha Ashram to Dandi. The goal was to complete the journey in 24 days. 61-year-old Gandhiji was the group's elder statesman. Kasturba blessed Gandhiji's forehead and handed him the walking stick and Khadi garlands. The Tilak, Khadi, and stick were the symbols of devotion, simplicity, and strength, respectively. Near Ahmadabad, in the Indian state of Gujarat, the Sabarmati Ashram is where the Dandi March, or salt march or salt Satyagraha day is often observed. Mahatma Gandhi began the Dandi March on March 12, 1930, which is celebrated today. Indian independence and the populace's rebellion against imperial horrors are at stake at this critical juncture. On this day, we commemorate one of India's most notable peaceful protests, which served as a springboard for countless other nonviolent movements to follow. It also shows us that despite their cultural and religious differences, Indians can come together to debate a simple topic

like salt, which has a direct impact on their life. An enormous impact was made by the Satyagraha. As a result, people began to defy the salt restrictions across the country. While in Malabar, K. Kelappan led the march to generate salt, C. Rajagopalachari led the march in Tennessee to create sugar. As an indication of the Indian people's decision not to live under British regulations and, as a result, under British dominion, the breach of the law was read in this way. Additionally, the media did a fantastic job of reporting on the protests. There was a decline in foreign apparel imports, a decrease in government revenue from excise, liquor, and land, and a large number of people boycotted the legislative elections. In order to understand the movement's significance, it is necessary to understand how many people were involved and how many women and students were involved. Businessmen, small-time dealers, natives, laborers, and farmers all took part in the movement. This movement influenced the future of the independence movement by unifying individuals behind a common cause.

2. Research Objective

- To shed light on the significance and meaning of the Dandi march
- To clarify and investigate the rationale behind Gandhi's selection of salt as his formula or symbol of protest.

3. METHODOLOGY

THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION IS BOTH IN-DEPTH AND RETROSPECTIVE. THIS MEANS THE STUDY IS VISIBLE TO THE AUDIENCE. THE INVESTIGATION RELIES ON BOTH MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL SOURCES. SUBJECTIVE RESEARCH WAS CONDUCTED. THE INQUIRY LOOKED AT OPTIONAL DATA FROM BOOKS, ONLINE, PAPER PIECES, AND WORLDWIDE JOURNALS AND PUBLICATIONS. THE STUDY ALSO USES NUMEROUS PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVES.

4. DISCUSSION AND RESULT

4.1 Background of Satyagraha

By 1930, the Congress Party had said that the main goal of the freedom movement was to achieve complete independence. On 26 January, it was decided that civil disobedience will be used to achieve the goal of Poona Swaraj Day. When Gandhi was asked to plan and organize the first such act, he accepted. In defiance of the government, Gandhiji decided to break the salt tax. There were some members of Congress who were apprehensive about the decision, as well as Indians and the British. After Lord Irwin, the Viceroy of Australia at the time, dismissed the danger of a salt protest, the government did little to stop the march itself. Gandhiji, on the other hand, made a wonderful decision by utilizing salt, which resonated with every Indian. Everyone needed salt, but the salt tax disproportionately affected the poor. Before the 1882 Salt Act, which gave the British a monopoly on salt manufacturing and the power to impose a salt tax on Indians, they were able to make salt from saltwater at no cost to them. Violation of the salt legislation was a crime. Both Hindus and Muslims had the same goal, thus Gandhiji intended to bring them together in a common cause. 8.2 percent of British Raj tax revenue came from a levy on salt, and Gandhiji was well aware of this fact.

4.2 Satyagraha is the salt course.

On the 2nd of March 1930, Gandhiji notified Lord Irwin of his intentions. On March 12th,

1930, he will take a group of people from his Ashram in Sabarmati across the Gujarati countryside. He will break the salt act when he arrived in the coastal settlement of Dandi. With 80 of Gandhiji's supporters, he set out on his march as scheduled. They were told categorically not to use violence in any kind. To witness this momentous occasion, tens of thousands of people gathered along the route from Sabarmati Ashram to Ahmadabad. As Gandhiji spoke to thousands of people at the end of each day, he criticized the administration in his lectures. While travelling, Gandhiji spoke with and wrote for a variety of publications and magazines. This elevated the struggle for Indian independence to the top of the news agenda around the world. In the West, Gandhiji became well-known as an activist and statesman. Sarojini Naidu accompanied him as he made his journey. On April 5, 1930, he arrived at Dandi, where he was met by a large crowd of supporters. Around 50,000 people were taking part in the march at this point. Gandhiji made salt on April 6th, 1930, breaking the salt ban. Following suit, a huge crowd had gathered.

Salt Satyagraha effects

Gandhiji was one of over 60,000 persons detained by the authorities during this time period. People engaged in widespread civil disobedience. The chowkidar tax, land taxes, forest rules, and other unpopular tax laws were also flouted, in addition to the salt tax. The government used more restrictions and censorship to try to stop the movement. An indictment was issued against the Congress Party. Satyagrahis, however, refused to be deterred by this. Gandhiji did not call off the non-cooperation movement despite several episodes of violence in Calcutta and Karachi, unlike the previous time. From Trichy to Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu, C Rajagopalachari led a similar march. Similarly, he was detained for allegedly producing salt. From Calicut to Payyanur, K Kelappan commanded a march through the Malabar area. Similar protests were held in Assam and Andhra Pradesh, where salt was produced illegally. It was Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan who organized and led the Satyagraha in Peshawar, Gandhiji's pupil. He was arrested in April 1930. In a bazaar named the Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Khan's disciples (called Khudai Khidmatgars) who had been schooled in Satyagraha had gathered. Even though they were unarmed, the British Indian Army shot at them. Hundreds of thousands of women joined the Satyagraha as well. The wearing of clothing from other countries was prohibited. Shops selling liqueur were targeted by protesters. Strikes were taking place all around the country. Sarojini Naidu led a peaceful nonviolent demonstration against the Dharasana Salt Works on May 21, 1930. The police ruthlessly lathi-charged the protesters, killing two individuals and injuring several others. As a result of this incident, the British government's policies in India were widely criticized in the international media. The uprising shocked the British authority. In addition, because of its non-violent nature, they were unable to suppress it brutally. Three things happened as a result of this movement: It brought the Indian independence movement to the attention of the Western media. Even women and the poorest members of society were able to connect with the movement because of it. Nonviolent Satyagraha proved to be a powerful weapon in the battle against imperialism. It was in 1931 that Gandhiji met Lord Irwin, a staunch advocate of ending the civil disobedience movement and the media attention that accompanied it. In accordance with the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, the civil disobedience movement would be put to an end and Indians would be allowed to produce salt for domestic consumption. It was also agreed upon by Lord Irwin to free the Indians. As a 'equal,' Gandhiji travelled to London for the Second Round Table Conference.

4.4 Why did Gandhiji defy the rule on salt?

Gandhi announced in 1930 that he would organize a march to defy the salt rule. The State had a monopoly on the sale and production of salt under salt law. Mahatma Gandhi and other nationalists argued that imposing a tax on salt was wicked because salt was an integral part of our diet. When it came to the Salt March, the broad longing for freedom was reflected in a specific grievance. Thus, there was no distinction between the wealthy and the poor when it came to the subject at hand. For 240 miles, Gandhi and his supporters marched from Sabarmati to the seaside village of Dandi before breaching the government's salt prohibition by collecting salt from the seashore, where it was easy to find and salt could be made by boiling saltwater. Thousands of people, including many women, tribals, and peasants, marched in this protest. The business federation released a booklet about salt. Thousands of satyagrahis were imprisoned by the Government for peacefully protesting against injustice. The Salt Satyagraha of 1930 marked a turning point in the struggle for Indian freedom. Salt was chosen as a sign of protest for a variety of reasons, including those cited above. Because the tax was levied on those who were starving and unwell, Gandhi deemed it to be a particularly inhuman one. This linkage between Swaraj's ideals and a common rural problem was made possible by the use of salt. Poor people like Khadi relied on salt as a source of income. Salt production was a monopoly. People were forced to buy it at a greater price from the shops because it was a household essential. To save money, the British used to dispose of the salt gathered from the sea by the people. When Gandhi used a symbol of resistance like salt, he demonstrated his tactical savvy. Every household in India relied on salt. The salt regulations were both unfair to the general public and exploitative to the salt industry as a whole. Through his selection of such a cause, Gandhi mobilized the entire populace. This issue touches the hearts of everyone in the United States. Until they witnessed the throngs of people lining up to replicate the salt satyagrahis across the country, Lord Irwin didn't realize how much of an impact the Dandi March had. Gandhi, according to Time magazine, was protesting Christians with Christian acts. The Dandi march was a turning point in British history. More than a million individuals across the country took part in the protest, many of them voluntarily pleaded guilty to their actions. Eventually, the Non-cooperation movement gained traction, which paved the way for conferences known as the Round Tables. As a result of the Dandi march, Indians claimed their right to self-governance more ferociously, and the British realized that their dominance over the country was coming to an end. An example of how times have changed is exemplified by events like the round table conferences and Government of India Act of 1935

5. CONCLUSION

Among his many distinctions, Mahatma Gandhi was a renowned Indian leader, a saint, and a beloved son of the Motherland. Mahatma Gandhi was referred to as Bapu ji Mahatma Gandhi by the word loving people. Untouchability was abolished, and he worked tirelessly for Hindu-Muslim unity throughout his life. Ram Puja was a guy of great character and convictions, and she wanted him to be celebrated across the country. India's freedom movement and Gandhi's nonviolent civil disobedience would have a profound impact on the rest of the world. Activists like Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela were influenced by Gandhi's life and teachings until he was assassinated in 1948. Gandhi used nonviolent civil disobedience to great effect while leading national campaigns to alleviate poverty, promote women's rights, foster religious and ethnic unity, and abolish the caste system's

inequities, all of which contributed to India's liberation from foreign rule. The Dandi march is an important part of the Indian independence movement. From now on, the Indian freedom fight has entered its ultimate phase, which is mass-based agitation. In addition, the movement's distinctive concept of Satyagraha and ahimsa further shook the British invincibility myth. In this context, it is important to note that the violation of the salt rule immediately became linked to the land and forest law agitations in the central and eastern parts of India. Indian freedom fight was given an edge by the demonstration of nationalism, which is one of its most important aspects.

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