

## **Minor Research Project- Summary**

### **Contemporary Relevance of Gandhian Principles in the One Act Plays of**

**Vishnu Prabhakar**

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The Indian society was grieved and tortured under the long lasting British rule. Since the Indian minds were primarily enslaved to superstitions and unscientific customs and practices, it was easy for the British to hold Indians under their control. The basic notion of Unity, the common agenda of fighting together against the British lie distant in the dreams. During such circumstances, the Indian National Congress with its first aim of reforming Indian society, came into being. The movement later attained the power to be a relief for the suppressed society which in turn stood as a basis for the Indian freedom.

In the meanwhile Gandhiji returned home after a successful trial in Satyagraha. While travelling through the villages, he became more familiar with the diversity of Indian culture and he worked out a credible plan for the release of Indian people from British hands. Truth, Non Violence, Sacrifice and Love were the principles by which he led the social and political reformations.

Discriminations based on caste, creed and religion were not taken into account and he considered the Indian society as one. He yearned for a complete transformation of the Indian society and he knew that economic independence would lead to social as well as political liberation. Students were given basic education along with which they were introduced to some kind of vocational training. He worked for the well-being of women, students, farmers and other labourers and introduced various ways of self-earning and self-learning strategies. Moreover he promoted the learning of the Oriental. Regional languages were given importance because he knew that mother tongue, as the word suggests, is more influential in one's life. Learning mother tongue and learning via the medium of mother tongue was promoted by Gandhiji. He stood against the consumption of alcohol, which according to him was a deadly poison. An appropriate scheme was developed for the overall liberation of the Indian society. He was worried about the innovations in the fields of industries and that industrialisation would be harmful to the working class people. He worked against it, by providing confidence, strength and support of the working class to fight against the harms that industrialisation may cause to them. Later each section of the society was taken into consideration and helped each of them to liberate themselves and emancipate from whatever evils and fears they were facing. His concept of Ramarajya was

an ideal state where each member of the society is free of all fears, where they could live independent, where their thoughts are free of restrictions. Moreover, the power and authority should never be concentrated on certain hands. Though India got freedom in 1947, the ideal state which Gandhiji had always dreamt of still remains in the dreams. The authorities failed to convert his dream into reality.

Gandhian views and ideologies were imbibed by many litterateurs which were reflected in their works. Gandhism was portrayed in all genres of Indian Literature, irrespective of region and language. In the branch of Hindi literature, people like Jayasankar Prasad, Harikrishnapremi, Siyaram Sarangupt, Makhanlal Chaturvedi, Vishnu Prabhakar etc. practised Gandhism in their writings. Vishnu Prabhakar was a man who had keen interest in Gandhian Principles and he did not restrict himself to any single genre of literature. This study focusses on the major One Act plays of Vishnu Prabhakar . Four Stages of writing can be traced out in his plays. The first stage is about the ideologies and about the patriots who were the foundation stone for the Gandhian principle. Plays like Chiranthan Khoj, Poornahuthi and Vaishnavajan belong to this category. Second is about Mahatma Gandhi, his personal life and his way of living. Plays like Gandhiji ka sapnaa, Ba aur Bapu are examples. In the third stage of writing, the Gandhian principles like Truth, Non Violence and the 18

ways of Applied Gandhism are dealt with in plays like Nahee Nahee Nahee, Detvaom ki Ghaati. The last is about failures and about the dreams which could never be transformed into reality. The self-centered modern society and the new generation are the theme of such plays like Congress men bano, Samajvaadi Bano etc.

Vishnu Prabhakar preached and practised Gandhism. He started following Gandhian ways at the age of seven, and continued being a patriot, practised self-sacrifice throughout his life. When this was portrayed in his plays, the reader could never feel it as Utopian. He preached only what he practised. And therefore he could influence the Indian minds, bring them towards Gandhism, create an affinity towards Gandhian principles. The works were widely accepted and the reader was given keen insight into Gandhism, question themselves and correct themselves. This study aims to focus on Gandhian principles, the application of Gandhism in present day life, adopting Gandhism as a means of liberation of the self. If Gandhian ways are followed in our day to day life, Ramarajya would surely move from the status of dream to reality.