

THE INTEGRAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NON-VIOLENCE AND GLOBALIZATION: A PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the notion of non-violence and the essential values for which it stands. The importance of non-violence has been time and again asserted by great religious leaders, philosophers and thinkers. The paper tries to highlight the need of non-violence in the present world scenario. It further explores the meaning of globalization given by great socialist thinkers and tries to establish its significance in today's world. Globalization has proved to be a boon for a countries development showing its important impact in the field of education, science and technology, medicine, communication etc.; turning the entire world into a global village. The paper tries to establish the fact that following and believing in the values of non-violence and its principles were earlier considered necessary for the world's prosperity and survival but today with the coming of globalization, non-violence has become even more indispensable. Showing this integral relationship between non-violence and globalization is the ultimate aim of the paper.

INTRODUCTION

There exists a vital relationship between non-violence and globalization. Non-violence is based on the notions of love, tolerance, understanding etc, which serves as a means to achieve peace and harmony or in other words, non-violence is a strategy to resolve conflict without resorting to any sort of violence. Non-violence is not a new concept rather it has been advocated and propagated by great leaders and philosophers from time immemorial. Globalization on the other hand is a relatively a recent phenomenon which means increasing liquidity and flow of people, object and information. Globalization has played a very vital role in field of education, science and technology to name of a few, contributing in totality towards world's economic development. With globalization, the world has been shrunk wherein decisions and events in one part of the globe are having serious impact on another and here the need of non-violence has become all the more pronounced.

MAIN BODY OF THE ARTICLE

History has proved it repeatedly that the result to resolve conflicts through violence has led to death of thousands, leaving millions homeless and orphan. It has been proved to us by

the use of atom bombs on Hiroshima and the Nagasaki. The use of arms for achieving an end threatens the existence of the human race as a whole and we can avoid it only when we live brotherly, exercise tolerance and follow Non-Violence. The concept of non-violence is not a new one rather its course can be traced from the Vedic times, to the time of preachers of different religions whether Hinduism, Jainism, Christianity and Islam and to the present era of twentieth century of Globalization. It is based on the notions of love, tolerance, forbearance, fortitude, sacrifice, sympathy, courage, selflessness, forgiveness, spirituality, compassion, brotherhood, righteousness, understanding and so on to achieve a world based on harmony, love, peace, justice, equality, freedom, mutual co-existence and unity. Non-Violence is a strategy to avoid the use of violence to achieve an end. Jesus Christ, one of the chief exponents of non-violence has rightly said:

But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you; That you may be the children of your Father that is in Heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the Evil and the good and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust.[1]

Conflict is and will remain a part of human civilization but the need is to resolve it through non-violent methods if human civilization is to prosper. The use of non-violent action breaks the vicious cycle of violence. Gandhi, who is considered as the modern prophet of non-violence, has aptly objected to use of violence, "... because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent." [2] Many great leaders of thought and founders of great religions of the world have taught that 'violence' cannot be overcome by 'violence' and 'wicked' cannot be overcome by wicked. Conversely, only non-violence can overcome violence it is so because, "Violence could never be ended by counter violence. The only effective alternative being the way of non-violence." [3] Non-violence opens up the space where rupture is possible in the cycle of violence. According to Martin Luther King Jr., "The non-violent resister not only refuses to shoot his opponent but he also refuses to hate him. At the center of non-violence stands the principle of love." [4] It ends the atmosphere of distrust, hatred and revenge. Suffering, an inevitable aspect of non-violence not only curbs violence but also transforms the adversary. Love and tolerance the two inseparable features of non-violent action creates an atmosphere of trust and brotherhood which helps to bind the entire humanity together irrespective of differences of faith, or points of view, or caste, creed and colour etc. Thus, non-violence not merely puts an end to violence, but also transforms evil to good and significantly contributes to peace and goodwill. Gandhi has well said "... I believe that non-violence is infinitely superior to violence; forgiveness is more manly than punishment. Forgiveness, adorns a soldier" [5] Today's world is grappling with innumerable problems which man is facing in every aspect of his life, and he sees a ray of hope and prosperity only in the method of non-violence to achieve a better living and social order.

Non-violence has an integral relationship with the process of Globalization. It may be said that twentieth century is the century of Globalization. Today, the term globalization is a very important topic in economics, academics and in socio-cultural system, since it may influence

all aspects of our lives. The term globalization has caught the attention of many scholars and socialists in recent century and has been defined variously. Globalization is a transplanetary process or set of processes involving increasing liquidity and the growing multi-directional flows of people, objects, places and information as well as the structures they encounter and create that are barriers to, or expedite, those flows.[6] Malcom Walters characterized globalization as a process in which the constraints of geography on social and cultural arrangements recede and in which people become increasingly aware that they are receding.[7] Ronald Robertson considers globalization to be a relatively recent phenomenon and argues in fact that it is intimately related to modernity and modernization, as well to postmodernity and postmodernization[8]. According to him, globalization refers to the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole. Anthony McGrew views globalization as a process, which operates at global level. According to him, Globalization refers to the processes, operating at communities and organizations in space-time combinations, making the world in reality and in experience more interconnected.[9] The term globalization has become a worldwide name from the last two decades. All in all the phrase globalization means to increase the socio-political, cultural, educational and economic activity. But all this could be possible when there is non-violence in the world, otherwise there would be nothing.

The process of Globalization like any other process has both negatives and positives attached to it. There is no doubt that the process of Globalization has increased the breach between rich and poor, which in turn increases the violence in all prospects. The relentless drive by world-wide corporate entities to force their products on to the richer sectors threatens the global balance of natural resources and the lifestyle of indigenous people. However, it is even argued that it is the most important in the human history. "In the era of globalization... shared humanity face [s] the most fateful of the many fateful steps." [10] While globalization has been accused of increasing the world's poverty level, de la Dehesa concludes that the data and evidence tend to demonstrate how the world's absolute and relative poverty has been reduced significantly since the 1980's while globalization has gathered momentum.[11]

The other side of the picture gives a clear image of the important and positive role played by Globalization. From the past to present age globalization has played a vital role in the progress of the countries which have been involved in the process of globalization. If there had been no globalization countries would not have made progress either in the field of economy, G.D.P., per capita income and so on. The raw fact remains that every successful example of economic development this past century- every case of a poor nation that worked its way up to a more or less decent , or at least dramatically better, standard of living has taken place via globalization, that is producing for the world market rather than trying for self-sufficiency.[12] For all this, we need world peace or in other words, a world based on principle of non-violence believing in the important virtues of unity, goodwill, brotherhood, etc. among the nations. "World peace is an idea of planetary non-violence by which nations willingly cooperate." [13] Since if, countries cannot make their international relations stronger

then it is very difficult for them to overcome the problems of their state and their economy would suffer. It is only due to globalization that countries come to know about the modern technologies, development made in fields of medicine, communications etc.

The world scenario has changed today. In place of old wants that could be satisfied by production of the country, we have new wants requiring for their satisfaction the products of distant land and climes. Today is the world of intercourses in every direction and a universal interdependence of nations. Most importantly at the turn of twentieth first century, the world is facing global issues that no country can solve alone without multilateral cooperation. For example diseases can and do proliferate globally. So a need arises for global spread of medical knowledge and expertise as well as technology useful in diagnosing and treating various diseases.[14] Globalization also brings increasing democratization. There is an assumption that economic progress leads to democracy and democracy leads to economic progress. Democracy and non-violence again are closely related terms where one serves to be indispensable for another.

In the twentieth century, globalization has influenced many aspects of human life; one of them is in the field of education. The progress of a nation is possible only when its citizens are dynamic, resourceful and responsible and citizens of a nation are shaped through education. In fact, education is the foundation stone of national development. Today in many under-developed countries where the standard of education is not excellent, the citizens go for their studies and research to countries with better standards of education, which would not have been possible without globalization. Like students and researchers in Iran and Indonesia where the education does not fully cater to their requirement go to countries like England, Australia and others where the education is outstanding. The impact of globalization on education is to bring swift evolution in technology, communication, equipments, and knowledge in all fields and develop new industries in view of that even the less developed countries would make progress. It consists of people, “consciously striving to educate their successors not for the existing state of affairs but so as to make possible a future better for humanity.”[15]

In the recent times, it is the impact of globalization due to which most of the countries get the material, which they do not produce or produce them in small quantity than required. For example, if one country does not produce rice, wheat etc., to fulfill their demand they can import the required material to fulfill their ends. At the same time, countries through globalization can export those materials, which they produce in surplus amount and import those, which they do not produce. Thus, globalization means different things to different people and is the process for meeting different goals but in sum total, we can say that all this would not have been possible without non-violence and peace in the world.

Gandhi one of the chief propagator of non-violence supported globalization in the following words, “I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But

I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”[16] “Preservation of one’s own culture does not mean contempt for that of others, but requires assimilation of the best that there may be in all the other cultures.”[17]

It has been emphasized from time immemorial that India being a multilingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious nation needs its citizens to adhere to the basic principles of non-violence for survival and prosperity. With globalization, the world has reached on the stance wherein it has been transformed into a global village, where the events, decisions and activities in one part of the world have significant consequences for individual in distant part of the globe. With the advancement of mobile technology and that of internet this village has further been shrunk. With such a situation, it would not be wrong to say that non-violence has become indispensable and even more important for the entire world today and not only for a single nation. Therefore, non-violence and globalization are equally important for the advancement and development of the world. “A culture of peace will be achieved when citizens of the world understand global problems, have the skills to resolve conflicts and struggle for justice non-violently, live by international standards of human right and equity, appreciate cultural diversity, and respect the earth and each other.”[18]

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