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ANNA HAZARE : A NEW GANDHI

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Research Paper - Political Science**Abstract**

Anna Hazare, illustrates himself as a Gandhian. His social movements, centered in Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra, hark back to Gandhiji's Phoenix ranch and Sabarmati ashram. Understanding this neo-Gandhian activism, "Gandhigiri" is a key to understanding the Anna Hazare movement. For more than two decades, Anna Hazare has been heroically fighting corruption through peaceful agitation and starvation strikes, following the model of Satyagraha, non violence and non-cooperation Mahatma Gandhi and Gandhigiri become a face of civil society.

Key words: Social movement, civil society, protest, Gandhi

Corruption has become a serious and burning issue in India. To eradicate the evil of corruption and to establish lokpal institution Anna Hajare a 73-year-old man in central Delhi congested eating on 15th April 2011. The man in problem was Kisan Baburao Hazare, and he was griping the Congress-led union government's laid-back attempts to

punish those guilty of large-scale dishonesty. His specific require was that “civil society” should have a say in drafting a stringent anti-corruption law, the Lokpal Bill. The Union government outline was eye wash, he claimed; outside participation was the only way to ensure an anti-corruption law with any de:ense. Hazare, “Anna”, to his supporters, was by no means the only man on a hunger strike present. But he was onto incredible. While the government was drowning in a flood of corruption scandals most outstandingly, the 2G spectrum allotment controversy and the Commonwealth Games fiasco, Anna Hazare’s completely timed complain managed to be carried the wave. A throng of civic activists, movie stars, and well-heeled followers from the metropolitan middle classes took his side. Though guess of its attractiveness are hard to estimate, it is fair to say that the Anna Hazare association spread beyond Delhi and to the rest of metropolitan India, which is why the Congress Party soon surrendered. On 8 April the government decided that 5 members, chosen by Anna Hazare, would be part of the Lokpal Bill planning committee. Neither Anna Hazare’s ways nor the reason was particularly original. Yoga guru Baba Ramdeo had previously fasted on the corruption issue; he fasted again soon after Anna Hazare’s fast finished. The move to endorse an effective anti-corruption bill also has old origins. In the 1960s itself, the initiative of the Lokpal was suggested by the first Administrative restructuring Commission. Even before Anna Hazare’s fast, Aruna Roy and other civil society associates had been Anna Hazare is one of India’s well-acclaimed social campaigners. A former soldier in the Indian army, Anna is well known and appreciated for upgrading the ecology and economy of the village of Ralegan Siddhi which is located in the drought prone Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state.

“Gandhigiri” The public face of the movement, Anna Hazare, tells himself as a Gandhian. His social movement, centered in Ralegan Siddhi in rural Maharashtra, harks back to Gandhi’s Phoenix farm and Sabarmati ashram. Many of his campaigns, against alcoholism or untouchability, make the Gandhian unite between social reform and political liberation. His preaches non-violence is calm with religious idioms (a portrait of Bharat Mata hung behind him while he fasted for the Jan Lokpal Bill), and makes personal honesty the centre piece of the movement. Yet, while the movement argues Gandhi’s morals and employs his manners, its political vision is as far as can be from Gandhi

himself. Sarcastically, this is what makes it so victorious in 21st century India. Considerate this neo-Gandhian activism, "Gandhigiri" is a key to understanding the Anna Hazare movement. Two makers of modern India were speedy to distance themselves from Gandhi's idea of a state. The positive programmes if carried out in the right direction, Gandhiji believed would result in the ideal Sarvodaya Samaj. Constructive works as planned by Gandhiji are something that everyone can participate in. In the same way Anna Hazare follows the Gandhi's idea of constructive programmes. He decided to solve the villager's problems with the help of those Gandhian ideas. Like – Prohibition on Alcohol, Grain Bank, Watershed Development Programme, Milk Production, Education, Removal of Untouchability, Collective Marriages, Gramsabha ect.

The need for the day is to shut down the egoistic attitude and mutual distrust. Non-violence can be a good force if experienced. If we shoot the messenger we can't improvement. There is no room for sponsorship among contemporaries. M. N. Roy, who established Radical Humanism, said: "When a man actually wants autonomy and to live in a democratic society he may not be able to free the whole world . . . but he can to a large extent at least free himself by behaving as a rational and ethical being, and if he can do this, others about him can do the same, and these again will broaden freedom by their mold." If that is the aspiration, then Gandhi is more related than ever. In current times, there are some live models which show the success of Non-violence resistance by using Gandhian strategy.

On the extraordinary 12th day of Anna Hazare's anti corruption fast, the assembly responded with unusual grace to show what it could do to honor a crusader's advise. After over eight hours of discuss around the structure of Lokpal Bill the Government and the opposition in both the Loksabha and Rajya Sabha came together to agree "in-principal" to the three major demands the activist had raised in his letter to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as a condition to end his protest. Anna Hazare's previous achievements which are based on truth and Satyagraha are following:

The erstwhile barren village has metamorphosed into a unique model of rural development due to its effective water conservation techniques, which made the villagers autonomous. Before, the same village observer's alcoholism, utter poverty and immigration

to urban slums. Motivated by Hazare's exclusive approach of salvaging an impossible village, the state government has executed the 'Model Village' scheme as part of its official approach. Hazare is now identical with rural growth in India. Included village Development scheme as a part of Golden Jubilee celebration of 'Bharat Chhodo Andolan', 'Adarsh Gaon Yojana' was started under his chairmanship 'Model Village' scheme. Watershed progress is one of the key tools contributing towards the overall objective of reducing poverty through sustainable development. The common man is put to lot of hardships and it has become difficult to make both ends meet as prices of essential commodities are rising constantly due to dishonesty. Hazare consider that our freedom is at the teeth of danger due to corruption and unless it is eradicated, the country will not be free in its proper sense. Therefore, a nonviolent war has been waged against corruption with the help of immense support from people.

Right to Information includes the citizens right to scrutinize works, documents, and report, take notes, extracts or specialized copies of documents or records, take certified samples of objects, obtain information in form of printouts, floppies, tapes, diskette, video cassettes or in any other electronic mode or during printouts. The peoples can acquire the above from all government departments to ensure transparency. All they need to do is to appeal to the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The state of Maharashtra leads in RTI activism and use, thanks to Anna Hazare's stimulating leadership. As has been well chronicled, Jawaharlal Nehru's idea of a modern, centralized, dominant Indian state that could bring about both economic prosperity as well as social justice was anathema to Gandhi's union of village democracy. Gandhi, an early detractor of modernity, was disappointed with the violence and illegitimacy of the State. Independent India is evidence to closely the reverse impulse of a centralized state driving large development projects in the name of the greater common good.

Conclusion:

From a tenacious soldier to a social developer, and a 'Right to Information' crusader, Anna Hazare's expedition of four decades has been unprecedented in terms of a non-violent yet effective campaign of restructuring a barren village in to an 'Ideal Village' model and empowering the faceless citizen through pioneering work on 'Right to

Information'. His hard work to empower Grampanchayats, protect competent government bureaucrats from frequent transfers and fight against the red tapism in government offices has also received accolades. The significance of the Hazare movement lay in its ability to bring the central government administration to its knees using the resources that a modern-day non-violent movement can assemble. It was the first time since independence that the government had to yield to pressure from a non-violent movement. Hence it has a demonstration effect on people who could potentially consider nonviolent action as a future mode of protest.

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