

# GANDHI'S REFLECTIONS...

Echoes of Peace, Non-violence, and Harmony

Editorial Team: Dr. Sushil Kumar, Saif Terai, & Anil Agrawal

APRIL 2024

ISSUE 2



## 2024 – Our Programs and Events to Spread Peace & Harmony

**Our Mission:** Educating communities on Gandhi's peace and non-violence principles and fostering harmony across cultures.

### Kick-off Event - Bill McKibben's Lecture on Climate Control

Gandhi Memorial Day (Feb 2), with Bill McKibben's lecture on "Climate Control" engaged over 400 attendees in a discussion on climate change and sustainability.

#### Essay Project

For high school/post-secondary students  
Register - by June 30  
Submit Essay - by July 31

#### Community Services

May 4 Park Cleaning  
May 25 Inner Peace Session  
June 1 Food Kitchen Service  
June xx Tree planting

#### Monthly Newsletter

"Gandhi's Reflections" - Disseminating Gandhian wisdom, and promoting MGPCO activities.

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eBook: Gandhi - A Life

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eBook: Gandhi's Views on Environment

### Gandhiji's Enduring Teachings

### "Gandhi's Principles in Action" Lecture Series



The lecture events will be held during the months of spring and summer, in collaboration with local speakers and diverse organizations.

**We aim to celebrate Gandhi's principles, teachings, and values.**

The events will include insightful lectures, panel discussions, and cultural performances, aimed at inspiring unity, peace, and eco-consciousness.

**Would you like to speak, or be a panelist? Please Register.**

### Gandhi Jayanti 2024



To celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday (2nd of October) with garlanding of Gandhi's statue and singing of hymns, followed by a cultural event and refreshments.

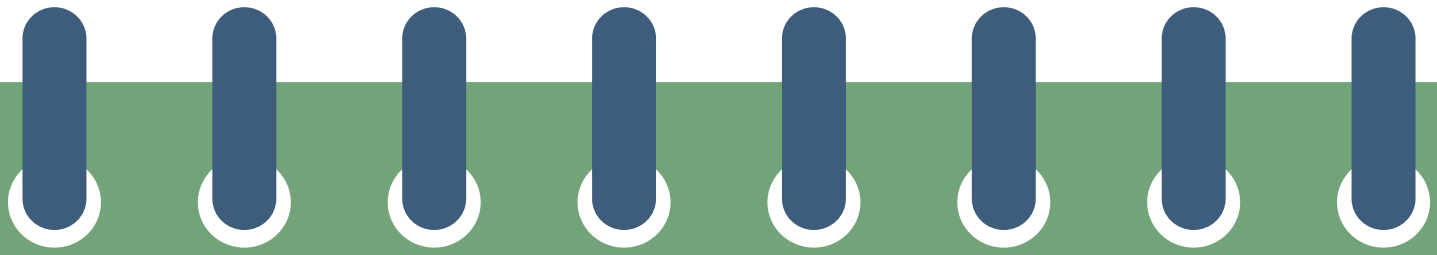
### M.K. Gandhi Annual Lecture 2024

Concluding the year with our flagship event featuring one or more distinguished speakers exploring Gandhi's enduring relevance in modern times.

Email Comments to: [newsletter@mgpco.org](mailto:newsletter@mgpco.org)



## Upcoming Events in May 2024



MAY

2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1	2	3	<b>4</b> Garden Cleaning
<b>5</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>12</b>	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>19</b>	20	21	22	23	24	<b>25</b> "Inner Peace" Session* REGISTER
<b>26</b>	27	28	29	30	31	

\* ["Inner Peace" session - Seats limited to 150. Please Register Now.](#)



Jesus was the most active resister known perhaps to history. His was nonviolence par excellence.



# Echoes of Gandhi: Past Lectures Revisited

- 1) 2024 "Notes from the Climate Struggle" by Bill McKibben (Issue #1)
- 2) **2023 "Impact of Jain Religious Tradition on Gandhi" by J. Humar** (*In the current Issue*)
- 3) 2022 "Peace in a Picemeal World" by Jaya Row
- 4) 2021 "Mahatma Gandhi & Islamic Non-violence" - Panel Discussion
- 5) 2021 "Turning the Tide on Non-violence in Education" by Jill Carr-Harris
- 6) 2020 "Mahatma Gandhi - Beyond the Civil Rights Movement - Panel Discussion
- 7) 2019 "Gandhi and Human Rights" by Vinay Lal
- 8) 2019 "Gandhi in the Modern Times) - Panel Discussion
- 9) 2019 "Jai Jagat: A 10,000 KM March..." by Jill Carr-Harris
- 10) 2018 "Gandhi and the Human Rights to Peace" by Douglas Roche
- 11) 2018 "Reflections on Gandhi, the Great Law of Peace and Indigenous Resurgence" by Taiiaki Alfred
- 12) 2017 "Samdarshana and Sambhava: Gandhi on the Plurality of Religions" by Dr. Bindu Puri
- 13) 2017 "Mahatma Gandhi Today" - Panel Discussion
- 14) 2016 "A Centre for Peace (A Vision for the Sacred islands in the Ottawa River)" by Douglas Cardinal
- 15) 2015 "The Mahatma, the Pope, and the Planet - Gandhian Reflections on the Pope's Recent Letter on Environment" by Dr. Noel Salmond
- 16) 2014 "Gandhi's Solution to Religious Conflicts" by Dr. Arvind Sharma
- 17) 2014 "Non-Violence Conference (A Weapon of the Strong)" - St. Paul University
- 18) 2013 "Gandhi's Religion and the Politics of Hinduism" by Vinay Lal
- 19) 2013 "Gandhi as Social Visionary: The Grassroots Work of Ekta Parishad" by Paul Schwartzentruber
- 20) 2012 "In Search of Pax Gandhiana" by Dr. Anthony J. Parel
- 21) 2011 "Encountering Gandhi on the Rideau River" by Dr. Noel Salmond
- 22) 2010 "Mythic Origins of Non-violence" by Devdutt Pattanaik
- 23) 2009 "The Influence of Vaishnavism on Mahatma Gandhi" by Dr. Harsha Dehejia
- 24) 2008 "Gandhi and Women" by Trichur Rukmani
- 25) 2007 "Gandhi, Religion & Non-violence" by Dr. Paul Younger
- 26) 2007 "Gandhi and the Question of the Worship of Images" by Dr. Noel Salmond
- 27) 2006 "Gandhiji's Ideals: Truth and Non-violence, Religion and Non-Violence" by Dr. Trichur Rukmani





## Past Lecture # (2)

# 2023-10-01 IMPACT OF JAIN RELIGIOUS TRADITION ON GANDHI



**Summary of the video (by ChatTube app):** Dr. Jagmohan Humar's lecture delves into the significant influence of Jainism on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophies, focusing on principles such as nonviolence (ahimsa) and truth-seeking. He explores Jainism's historical roots, highlighting its teachings on the eternal, interdependent universe, overcoming passions like anger, and the soul's potential for liberation from rebirth.

Dr. Humar discusses how Jain principles profoundly shaped Gandhi's ethical framework and activism. He emphasizes the Jain doctrine of Anekantavada (pluralism or the belief in multiple truths), which informed Gandhi's approach to embracing diverse perspectives. The lecture further explores the impact of Jain teachings on Gandhi's commitment to nonviolent resistance and his pursuit of truth for social and personal transformation.

Concluding, Dr. Humar underscores the modern relevance of these teachings, suggesting that Jain principles, alongside Gandhi's adaptations, provide insightful solutions to contemporary issues such as violence, environmental degradation, and social injustice. This comprehensive examination offers a framework for ethical living for today's global challenges.

He who is ever brooding over result often loses nerve in the performance of his duty.





## **Peace and Nonviolence**

**Video: Gandhi's Philosophy of Nonviolence:  
Explained Simply**

**Article: Gandhi's Philosophy (Part 1) -  
Ahimsa, Satyagraha, and Sarvodaya**

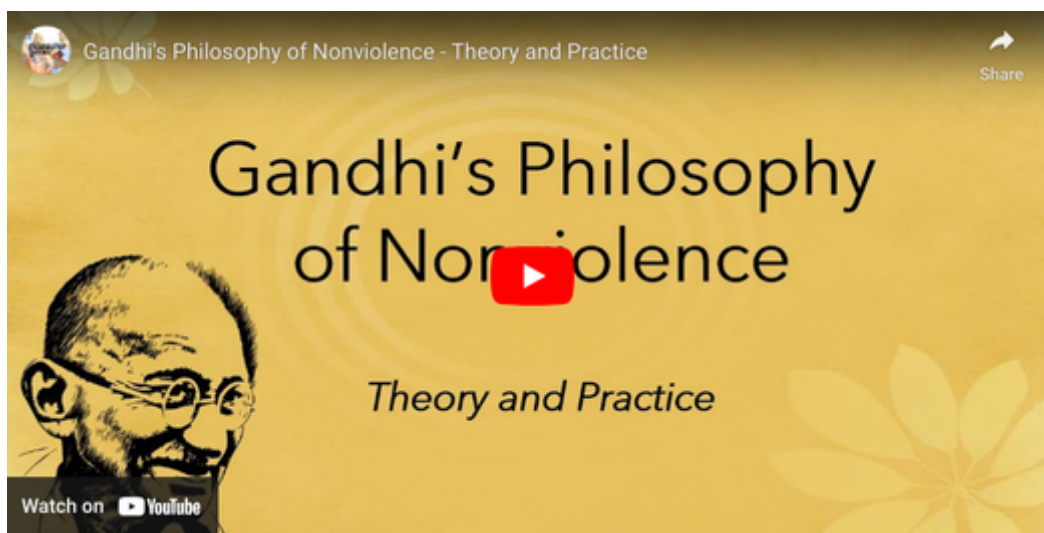
**eBook: Gandhi - A Life by Krishna Kripalani**

## **Harmony and Integrity**

## **Sustainability and Reverence for Life**



## Gandhi's Philosophy of Nonviolence: Explained Simply



**Summary of the Video (by ChatTube app):** Mahatma Gandhi's approach to nonviolence, or "ahimsa," is more than avoiding physical harm. It is a profound ethical principle rooted in Eastern religions, including his own Hinduism. For Gandhi, nonviolence meant avoiding violence and actively promoting love, truth, and kindness to all.

Gandhi clarified that nonviolence is not passive but involves not causing harm and doing good. This includes actions and intentions, as well as extending kindness without hostility.

Nonviolence, as Gandhi practiced, demands virtues like honesty and courage. It involves opposing injustice peacefully, using strategies like civil disobedience, which he called "Satyagraha."

Gandhi applied nonviolence in his daily life and political actions. This ranged from personal choices like vegetarianism to organizing peaceful protests and forming communities based on nonviolent values.

Despite criticisms, Gandhi viewed striving for nonviolence as a moral imperative and an effective change strategy. He admitted that perfect nonviolence might be unattainable but valued the effort for its transformative potential.

Ultimately, Gandhi's nonviolence aims to change the individual and society, promoting a life dedicated to service, compassion, and resistance to wrongdoing.

What is really needed to make democracy function is not knowledge of facts, but right education.



# GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY

## PART 1 - Ahimsa, Satyagraha, and Sarvodaya

From Editor's Desk

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**Synopsis:** Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy integrates deep spirituality with moral activism, emphasizing nonviolent resistance, truth in action, and the welfare of all. During India's struggle for independence, he implemented these principles through civil disobedience and peaceful protests, which were crucial in achieving independence from British rule.

Today, Gandhi's teachings remain highly relevant. They offer alternative approaches to dealing with conflict by promoting dialogue and empathy, advocate for social justice by emphasizing the dignity of every individual, and call for environmental responsibility through simplicity and sustainable living. Gandhi's strategies in political activism continue to empower democratic engagement and accountability.

Gandhi's legacy continues to inspire a global community committed to peace, fairness, and cooperation, making his philosophy a timeless guide for creating a more just and harmonious world.

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Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance and social change is deeply rooted in spirituality and moral principles. It emphasizes **Ahimsa (nonviolence)**, **Satyagraha (truth force)**, and **Sarvodaya (welfare of all)**.

For Gandhi, **Ahimsa** encompassed more than the absence of physical violence and included qualities such as compassion, empathy, and respect for all beings. He believed in transforming oppressors through love and understanding and that enduring suffering without retaliation showed true strength.

**Satyagraha**, meaning pursuing truth and justice through nonviolent means, was vital to Gandhi's approach. He held that truth is the ultimate reality, and individuals have a moral duty to seek and uphold it, even in adversity. This belief empowered them to confront injustice with integrity, relying on the strength of truth to overcome falsehood.

Gandhi implemented his philosophy during India's independence movement through civil disobedience, boycotts, and peaceful protests against British colonial rule, ultimately leading to independence through nonviolent means.

... continued





## Gandhi's Philosophy (part 1) continued

**Sarvodaya**, the welfare of all, formed the foundation of Gandhi's vision of societal progress. It advocated for equitable resource distribution and prioritized the well-being of every individual.

Gandhi's teachings have had a global impact, influencing Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and others, and inspiring worldwide movements for equality and freedom. His principles of nonviolent resistance remain relevant today, offering guidance for conflict resolution, social justice, environmental sustainability, political activism, and global citizenship. Gandhi's legacy inspires those seeking to address injustice and oppression peacefully and constructively.

### Relevance to the modern-day world

Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance is highly relevant in modern times, guiding us in addressing various challenges. Here's how his principles apply in different contexts:

**Conflict Resolution:** Gandhi's approach offers an alternative to retaliation by promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and empathy. It helps resolve conflicts and build sustainable peace. It has proven effective in movements in the U.S. and South Africa.

**Social Justice:** Gandhi's emphasis on the dignity and worth of every individual makes his philosophy pertinent in combating discrimination, oppression, and inequality. His teachings inspire movements for social change by challenging power structures and amplifying marginalized voices.

**Environmental Sustainability:** Gandhi offers insights into addressing ecological issues by emphasizing simplicity and harmony with nature. His advocacy for frugality and sustainable living provides a framework for tackling climate change and environmental degradation.

**Political Activism:** Gandhi's nonviolent resistance strategies, including protests and civil disobedience, remain vital tools for political activism. They influence democratic processes and ensure that leaders are held accountable.

**Global Citizenship:** His vision of Sarvodaya, or the welfare of all, promotes global citizenship, urging people to work collectively towards global challenges like poverty and humanitarian crises.

In conclusion, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance has significantly impacted historical movements and continues to offer valuable insights into addressing present-day challenges. By embracing his strategies of dialogue, empathy, and peaceful protest, societies worldwide can overcome issues of violence, injustice, and inequality.



## “Gandhi - A Life” by Krishna Kripalani

Source [downloadable eBook]: [https://www.mkgandhi.org/ebks/gandhi\\_a\\_life.pdf](https://www.mkgandhi.org/ebks/gandhi_a_life.pdf)

### Summary:

**"Gandhi: A Life"** is a comprehensive biography by Krishna Kripalani that details Mahatma Gandhi's life and the philosophies that guided him. The book illustrates Gandhi's commitment to truth, nonviolence, and justice, and how these principles influenced the Indian independence movement and global civil rights movements.

Kripalani explains Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha, or truth force, which was more than a political strategy; it was a way of life advocating proactive, nonviolent action. This approach aimed to transform opponents through moral persuasion and the power of truth.

The biography also explores Gandhi's concept of Swaraj or self-rule, which emphasized political freedom and the idea of self-sufficiency at individual and community levels. Gandhi promoted this in response to his concerns about industrialization, which he feared would lead to loss of personal and community integrity.

Additionally, the book covers Gandhi's efforts against social injustices like untouchability, his advocacy for gender equality, and his work to bridge Hindu-Muslim divides. These actions were driven by his deep belief in the intrinsic worth of every individual and the interconnectedness of all life.

Kripalani also delves into the personal aspects of Gandhi's life, including his celibacy, dietary practices, and personal sacrifices, all of which were intended to deepen his spiritual resolve.

Overall, "Gandhi: A Life" presents a detailed portrait of Gandhi as a philosopher-activist whose life and teachings continue to influence global thought and action. The biography not only explores his public deeds but also provides insights into his personal challenges and triumphs.



## Peace and Nonviolence

### Harmony and Integrity

**Video: Mahatma Gandhi's Speech | Gandhi On God and Truth**

**Gandhi's Ethics and Lessons to Humanity**

**eBook: Truth is God**

## Sustainability and Reverence for Life





## Mahatma Gandhi's Speech | Gandhi On God and Truth



**Summary of the video (by ChatTube app):** In his speech on "God and truth," Mahatma Gandhi discusses his belief in a divine power that rules the universe. He describes this force as invisible yet undeniable, felt through the natural and moral order of the world.

Gandhi shares an example from his travels in Mysore, where he noticed that even villagers who were unaware of their secular leaders sensed a divine governance. He compares this to his understanding of God, not as a blind force but as a conscious, caring entity.

He explains that truly understanding God goes beyond our senses and shows in changes in behavior and character, as seen in the lives of prophets and sages from various cultures. This realization of God stems from a firm belief in the moral principles of truth and love.

Gandhi points out the limits of reason in matters of faith, advocating for a belief system rooted in the moral governance of the world. Adopting a faith that rejects anything against truth and love, one follows divine law, making life easier and more virtuous.

Throughout his speech, Gandhi connects his spiritual philosophy with a call to live by truth and love, offering a way to connect with the divine through moral conviction and changed behavior.

*My ahimsa would not tolerate the idea of giving a free meal to a healthy person who has not worked for it in some honest way.*



# Gandhi's Ethics and Lessons to Humanity

From Editor's Desk

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**Synopsis:** *Mahatma Gandhi, renowned for his profound simplicity and ethical principles, remains an inspirational figure globally. Advocating a minimalist lifestyle, he embraced simplicity, living in communal ashrams and wearing hand-spun khadi to symbolize self-reliance and resistance to oppression. His ethical framework was built on integrity, compassion, and the pursuit of truth through Satyagraha—his method for addressing injustice nonviolently. Gandhi's personal choices reflected his moral beliefs, notably his vegetarianism and abstention from alcohol and tobacco. His commitment to uplifting the marginalized and fostering communal harmony marked his life's work. Gandhi's philosophy, emphasizing the harmony of thoughts, words, and actions, inspires ongoing efforts toward a just, compassionate, and peaceful world.*

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Mahatma Gandhi was a remarkable figure known for his unwavering commitment to ethical principles and profound simplicity. Gandhi's life and working style powerfully illustrate these principles, making him an apostle of peace and nonviolence. His legacy continues to inspire people around the world to this day.

## Simple Living:

- Gandhi's famous words, "Live simply so that others may simply live," are still relevant today. By adopting a simple lifestyle, we can contribute to the greater good of humanity.
- Gandhi himself was a minimalist. He wore khadi clothing, which was hand-spun and hand-woven, as a symbol of self-reliance and resistance to colonial rule.
- He lived in 'ashrams,' communal spaces where resources and responsibilities were shared among the members. This promoted self-discipline, harmony, and service to others.
- Gandhi prioritized basic necessities over material comforts and believed in living in harmony with nature. Embracing simplicity can lead to a fulfilling life and positively impact the world.

## Ethical Values:

- Gandhi's ethical values centered around leading an honest, transparent, and morally consistent life. He believed that true happiness comes from the harmony between our thoughts, words, and actions. His famous quote, "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony," reminds us of the importance of integrity.

continued...

Ahimsa calls for the strength and courage to suffer without retaliation, to receive blows without returning any.



## Gandhi's Ethics and Lessons to Humanity (continued)

- Gandhi believed in Satyagraha, the power of truth, to overcome injustice and oppression. He saw truth as a tool of resistance that could transform society.
- Gandhi believed in compassion and empathy and that every individual has inherent worth and dignity, irrespective of their background or circumstances. As a proponent of the 'Sarvodaya' principle, he advocated for the welfare of all and worked to uplift the marginalized and oppressed. His philosophy inspires us to embrace kindness and create a more just and equitable society.
- Gandhi lived by high ethical values, treating everyone with respect and kindness. He remained humble, acknowledging his own shortcomings and learning from others. Gandhi's life is a shining example for us all to become better human beings.

### Personal Choices:

- Gandhi's ethical values were reflected in his personal choices. He believed in self-discipline and self-restraint, which is how he avoided alcohol, tobacco, and meat. He was a committed vegetarian, reflecting his deep respect for all forms of life. We can follow his example to live a more ethical and compassionate life.
- Gandhi devoted his life to serving humanity, empowering women, and fostering communal harmony. At the Sevagram Ashram, Gandhi created a community of social and political activists, inspiring generations to work for the greater good, reminding us of the power of compassion and collective action.
- In 1930, Gandhi's Salt March was a bold 240-mile walk to the Arabian Sea in protest of the British salt taxes, a remarkable display of his dedication to simplicity and ethical principles. This act of civil disobedience ignited the Indian independence movement and proved the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance.

Mahatma Gandhi's life was a shining example of simplicity and ethical living. His values of integrity, humility, and compassion continue to inspire people worldwide.

Gandhi's dedicated actions and inspiring words are a timeless reminder of the transformative power of ethical living. He left behind a remarkable legacy that has touched generations and continues to resonate with us today. As we reflect on his life, let's strive to embody his values and contribute to creating a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world.

*The principle of ahimsa is hurt by every evil thought, by undue haste,  
by lying, by hatred, by wishing ill to anybody.*





## Truth is God:

### **Gleanings from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi bearing on God, God-Realization and the Godly way**

Written by : M. K. Gandhi - Compiled by : R. K. Prabhu

Source [downloadable eBook]: [https://www.mkgandhi.org/ebks/truth\\_is\\_god.pdf](https://www.mkgandhi.org/ebks/truth_is_god.pdf)

#### **Summary:**

"Truth is God" is a collection of Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual and philosophical beliefs, compiled by R.K. Prabhu. The book provides a profound insight into the principles that guided Gandhi's life and influenced many worldwide.

In the book, Gandhi emphasizes the interconnectedness of truth, non-violence, and the divine and their significance for personal growth and societal change.

Gandhi argues that seeking truth is synonymous with understanding the divine, and he champions non-violence as a comprehensive approach essential for attaining truth.

He believes that non-violence is not limited to physical harm. It encompasses thoughts and actions that embody respect and compassion for all beings. Gandhi also emphasizes the omnipresence of God within every individual and all creation. He has highlighted the importance of realizing the divine presence for spiritual development.

Moreover, Gandhi stresses the significance of prayer and meditation in fostering a connection with the divine power and achieving deeper insights. He connects the principles of truth and non-violence with broader social responsibilities. Gandhi urges individuals to lead a life rooted in values of respect and compassion towards all beings.

While he recognizes the role of reason in spiritual matters, Gandhi places greater importance on faith for a more profound spiritual experience. He seamlessly integrates his religious beliefs with daily life, and advocates for actions that consistently reflect spiritual values.

In summary, "Truth is God" encapsulates Gandhi's vision of a life aligned with truth, non-violence, and divinity, steering individuals towards ethical conduct and improving society.



## **Peace and Nonviolence**

## **Harmony and Integrity**

# **Sustainability and Reverence for Life**

**Video: Save Soil - Our Very Body  
(Documentary)**

**Gandhi's Green Legacy: Combating Soil  
Degradation**

**Paper on Ecology: Gandhi's Views on  
Environment**



# Save Soil - Our Very Body (Documentary)

## Isha Foundation (Save Soil Movement)



**Summary (by ChatTube app):** The video discusses the importance of soil for human life, highlighting the depletion and degradation of soil worldwide. It emphasizes the crucial role of soil in providing nutrients for food production and how soil degradation can lead to food shortages and conflicts. The video also connects soil health with global issues like climate change, emphasizing the need to protect and enrich the soil to ensure a sustainable future for humanity.

**What solutions does the documentary offer for soil preservation?** The documentary emphasizes the importance of integrating organic content back into the soil to prevent depletion. It suggests implementing policies that mandate a minimum of three to six percent organic content in agricultural land. Additionally, the documentary advocates for a global initiative and citizen involvement to bring about long-term solutions and policy changes for soil preservation.

**How can individuals contribute to preserving soil health at home?** Individuals can contribute to preserving soil health at home by practicing sustainable gardening methods. Some actions include composting kitchen waste to create organic fertilizer, using natural fertilizers instead of chemical ones, rotating crops to prevent soil depletion, planting cover crops to protect the soil, and minimizing the use of pesticides. Additionally, minimizing disturbance to soil through practices like no-till gardening and mulching can help promote soil health and biodiversity.

**What are the potential consequences of ignoring soil health preservation?** Ignoring soil health preservation can lead to severe consequences such as soil depletion, desertification, food shortages, and ultimately, mass famines. Depleted soil may result in reduced agricultural productivity, leading to nutrient-deficient food, which can contribute to malnutrition and various health issues. Furthermore, soil degradation can impact biodiversity, water quality, and overall ecosystem health. Failure to address soil health can also lead to social and economic issues, including food insecurity, migration, and potential conflicts over dwindling resources.

**In what ways can community initiatives support soil sustainability goals?** Community initiatives can support soil sustainability goals by raising awareness about the importance of soil health and implementing local projects focused on soil preservation. Community gardens, composting programs, educational workshops, and soil testing initiatives can help promote sustainable soil management practices. Collaborative efforts to advocate for policy changes, such as regulations promoting organic content in agricultural land, can also be facilitated through community initiatives. By engaging and mobilizing community members, these initiatives can contribute to long-term soil sustainability goals and promote a shared commitment to protecting the environment.





# Gandhi's Green Legacy: Combating Soil Degradation

Follow Gandhi's teachings to protect our earth and secure a sustainable future.

Contributor: Rajesh Jain

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## Synopsis:

*This article talks about how we need to take care of the Earth's soil. It uses the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, a famous leader who believed in living simply and not harming nature. Gandhi thought we should use the Earth's resources wisely and not be greedy.*

*The United Nations has warned us that we might run out of good soil for farming in just 60 years. This is scary because it means we might not have enough food in the future. The article says we should listen to Gandhi's advice to fix this problem. This includes farming in a way that doesn't hurt the soil, saving soil from getting ruined, and being kind to the Earth.*

*The article suggests we learn more about how important soil is, get involved in community projects to save soil, and support laws that protect the Earth. It ends by reminding us that Gandhi believed in taking care of the Earth. It says we should remember this and start acting now to save our soil, so we have a healthy planet for future generations.*

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## Introduction:

Soil degradation is a severe problem with many impacts. It affects our food, water, plants and animals, climate, and quality of life. We can learn from Mahatma Gandhi's teachings to live in harmony with nature, take care of the Earth, and not be too greedy. By doing so, we can care for our planet and live sustainably.

## Gandhi's Vision:

Mahatma Gandhi was a renowned leader who fought for freedom and justice. He strongly advocated environmental conservation and stressed the importance of treating the Earth with kindness. One of his famous quotes states that the planet has adequate resources to meet everyone's needs but not greed. This perspective is particularly relevant in addressing soil degradation, reminding us of our unsustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation.

continued ...



## **Gandhi's Green Legacy: Combating Soil Degradation** (continued)

### **The Alarming Reality:**

It is alarming that we are currently facing a critical situation. Recent studies, including those conducted by the United Nations, have shown that our soil may become unviable for farming within 60 years. This severe concern highlights the urgent need for immediate action to ensure food security, maintain water purity, and build climate resilience. Gandhi's wise words are more relevant than ever, reminding us of the importance of taking responsibility for our planet and its future.

### **Applying Gandhi's Ideas:**

- **Farming the Right Way:** Gandhi strongly advocated traditional and sustainable farming methods that prioritize nurturing the soil. We can restore soil health by implementing practices such as crop rotation, natural pest control, and avoiding harmful chemicals. Research indicates that the organic content in the soil should be preserved at around 5%.
- **Being Kind to the Earth:** According to Gandhi's principle of Ahimsa, or non-harming, we must care for all living beings and the Earth. This includes protecting soil, preventing erosion, promoting biodiversity, and rehabilitating damaged land.
- **Learning and Helping Together:** Gandhi believed in the power of collective action. We can make a meaningful impact by educating others about the importance of soil health, participating in community projects, and advocating for legislation that protects the environment.
- **Advocating for Earth-friendly Laws:** Gandhi advocated for effecting change through peaceful methods. This approach can guide us in advocating for legislation that promotes sustainable agriculture, preserves natural habitats, and safeguards soil health.

### **Taking Action:**

We must heed Gandhi's teachings and take prompt action to safeguard our soil. We can achieve this by embracing sustainable farming techniques, backing conservation initiatives, spreading awareness, and promoting environmental preservation. Doing so can ensure a healthy planet for our future generations. Gandhi's words remind us that caring for the soil is equivalent to caring for ourselves. Hence, we must act now to secure a sustainable future.

### **References and credits:**

1. [www.unanyc.org](http://www.unanyc.org)
2. "Preserving Our Earth: The Urgency of Environmental Care"



# Gandhi's Views on Environment:

## The Search for an Alternative by Ambarish Mukherji

Source [paper on Ecology]: [https://sriramakrishna.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Gandhis-Views-on-Environment\\_-The-Search-for-an-Alternative-AMBARISH-MUKHERJI-3.pdf](https://sriramakrishna.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Gandhis-Views-on-Environment_-The-Search-for-an-Alternative-AMBARISH-MUKHERJI-3.pdf)

### Summary:

Ambarish Mukherji's paper "Gandhi's Views on Environment: The Search for an Alternative" explores how Mahatma Gandhi's ecological ideas offer a critical lens through which to view our current environmental policies and practices. At a time when the world is grappling with climate change, resource depletion, and environmental injustice, Gandhi's insights and philosophies regarding environmental sustainability resonate deeply with contemporary ecological concerns.

The paper starts by framing the historical context of the environmental movement, noting that significant attention to ecological issues began only in the 1970s, decades after Gandhi's time. Gandhi was a precursor to modern environmentalism, as he was critical of unchecked industrialization and modernization, which he believed dehumanized people and exploited natural resources. He promoted simple living to minimize environmental impact and resist consumerism. His ideas anticipated the modern concept of sustainable development, emphasizing the balance between human needs and ecological health.

Gandhi's principle of nonviolence extended to all beings and the Earth, advocating a harmonious existence with nature. He envisioned a social order that included the well-being of all individuals, aligning with the idea of social equity in sustainable development. He also promoted local economies and self-sufficiency to reduce dependence on exploitative global systems.

Gandhi's warnings about consumerism and its environmental toll are more relevant than ever amidst global ecological crises. His ideas support current movements toward alternative, sustainable models of development that prioritize environmental balance and human well-being. The paper notes the impact of Gandhian principles on various contemporary environmental and social movements in India, such as the Chipko movement and others advocating for sustainable practices and social justice.

In summary, Gandhi's ecological ideas offer a robust framework for creating sustainable development and environmental stewardship. By adopting Gandhian principles, modern societies can foster a more sustainable relationship with the environment, emphasizing restraint in consumption and respect for natural limits. As we face the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, Gandhi's legacy provides a roadmap for a more equitable and sustainable future.



## The Enduring Teachings of Mahatma Gandhi

### Gandhi's 11 Vows:

1. **Nonviolence (Ahimsa):** Commitment to non-violence and harmlessness towards all living beings.
2. **Truth (Satya):** Pursuit of truth, both in thought and action.
3. **Non-stealing (Asteya):** Refraining from taking anything not freely given.
4. **Chastity (Brahmacharya):** Practicing self-discipline and control over desires.
5. **Non-possession (Aparigraha):** Embracing simplicity and minimizing possessions to only what is necessary.
6. **Body-labor (Sharirashrama):** Valuing physical labor as a means to sustain oneself.
7. **Diet (Aswada):** Advocating for a simple and healthy diet, mindful of the impact on the body and environment.
8. **Fearlessness (Abhaya):** Cultivating courage to stand by one's convictions and truth.
9. **Equal respect for all religions (Sarva Dharma Samanatva):** Promoting religious tolerance and understanding.
10. **Economic strategy (Swadeshi):** Prioritizing local economies and self-sufficiency.
11. **Untouchability (Asprishyatanivaran):** Opposing caste discrimination and advocating for equality and respect for all individuals, regardless of their social status.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

This simple statement reflects Gandhi's belief in personal responsibility, action, and the power of individual transformation as a catalyst for societal change. It urges everyone to embody the values they wish to see in society, emphasizing that real change starts with oneself.



Our Website: [www.gandhiji.ca/joinus](http://www.gandhiji.ca/joinus)

We invite you to join us and embrace Gandhi's Legacy in 2024.

