

## Gandhi and Football

### Arunabha Ray

Assistant Professor in physical Education, Shri Govindprabhu Arts and Commerce College, Talodhi (Balapur ) Dist. Chandrapur, Pin Code 441221. Maharashtra, India

### Abstract

Mahatma Gandhi is father of our Nation. Mahatam Gandhi (Mohandas Karmchand Gandhi) popularly called as 'Gandhiji'. Gandhi symbolized many things during his lifetime, a political leader, a freedom fighter, a philosopher, a social reformer and an activist. He was known as 'Bapu'. Gandhi saw nonviolence an active and powerful tool, He had a clear vision of independent India, which brought him from South Africa to India. Satyagraha or the nonviolence revolution had imposed the British on India. Gandhiji brought down the British Empire through satyagraha movement. The author focuses this paper on Gandhiji used football during his stay in south Africa for his fight against racial discrimination against the colonial masters through the principles of nonviolent resistance.

**KEYWORDS** : Gandhiji, Football, India, South Africa, Satyagraha, Nonviolence.

### Introduction :

Father of the Nation Mahohandas Karamchand Gandhi is known as Mahatma Gandhi and affectionately called as Bapu. 2nd October the day that is celebrated across the country as the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji as a leader is respected and idolized not only in India, but across the world for his nonviolent principles of protest and secular ways. He is known across the world for his diverse contribution to a wide range of areas right from being the icon of Indian freedom struggle to becoming saint, seer, educationist, philosopher, environmentalist, nature cure expert and many more. Gandhiji is a 'Yugpurush' - man of action with culture, character and philosophy of his own. Mahatma Gandhi was a phenomenon of the ages past and is for the ages to come. He is a modern man, learning from all that is ancient, and reinventing the some for the new age. His reinvented message is truth and nonviolence in action, executed with supreme sense of justice. His intellect is hungry for truth; heart hungry for love; soul hungry for liberation. His invention scientific and spiritual is Satyagraha for justice and freedom. he strives to convert the evil into good, the untruth to truth, the injustice to justice, picks up from every jewel the human civilization has offered from every creed and religion.

Mahatma Gandhiji had a perfect and clear vision of a free India, independent India. His visionary idealism valid on his four 'S' s : Swaraj, Swadeshi, Satyagraha and Sarvodya. It is this vision which brought him from South Africa to India. The South African period was crucial in the development of his personality and leadership skills. To move from leadership of South African struggle to leadership of the Indian people's struggle implied a change of scale and perspective. His greatest contribution after his return to India was the transformation of Indian National Congress into a mass organization. Under his leadership, the India national congress openly declared that it adopted nonviolence as a policy. Gandhiji saw nonviolence an active and powerful tool. It is not just absence of war and absence of violence but it is a doctrine in its own right that has the potential to end violence. Gandhiji has used Satyagraha to bring a change in the political, economic and moral systems that the

British had imposed on India. He understood that violent power of the rulers cannot and should not be countered by violent revolutions. He recognized the inherent might of nonviolent passive resistance by millions of common men and women that cannot be quelled by autocratic rulers however powerful they may be. Satyagraha is a display of exemplary courage in the face of brutal operation and an acceptance of pain and suffering that result from it. Gandhiji brought down the British Empire through Satyagraha movement by inspiring millions of his countrymen to join Salt Satyagraha, Dandi March and his silent protest against the colonial masters. Gandhiji was assassinated in 1948.

Gandhiji made us understand that the philosophy of nonviolence is not a weapon of the weak; it is a weapon, which can be tried by all. Gandhi was the first in human history to extend the principle of nonviolence from the individual to social and political plane, he is the person who came up with the name and brought together different related ideas under one concept : Satyagraha. It is widely believed that Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi had no links with sports. Gandhi was mainly involved in political and socioeconomic movement. Gandhiji was a preeminent leader of the Indian Independence struggle who owes a lot to the field of football for mastering the art of nonviolence, when he used to stay in South Africa had established there football clubs in Durban, Pretoria and Johannesburg. Mahatma Gandhi, used football to spread his message to passive resistance and nonviolence during South African Satyagraha between 1893 and 1915.

Gandhiji spent 21 years in South Africa to start a successful law practice from 1893 to 1914. Mahatma Gandhi - the law year, the anti- colonial resistance leader, the political campaigner, all of which contribute to perfecting his image as the father of nation. In South Africa, when he practicing lawyer transvaal Indian Football Association in 1896, the first organized football association that was run by non- whites. He used to train the footballers by main tools to involved the same tools he used to fight against the British for freedom in India. Gandhiji used football as a medium to propagate Satyagraha on the African Soil and polish his skills as a negotiator and protester. In South Africa Gandhi used football for his fight against racial discrimination and would talk to the teams at the half- time about the principles of nonviolent resistance and distributed pamphlets to spectators addressing the issue. Gandhiji decided to focus on using football as an effective tool that would foster the team spirit and give him the opportunity to spread the word about the nonviolent resistance movement against the British. The money raised from the victory matches were used to facilitate the families of those resisters who were imprisoned for practicing nonviolent measure to fight against local racist laws. Gandhiji was returned to India In 1914, however he did not abandon his team in South Africa. The first Christopher's Contingent, sought blessings from Gandhi, this football team consisting mainly Indian origin players, was sponsored by Albert Christopher, a fellow mate of Gandhi who actively participated with him in the labor Strike in 1913. The Christopher's Contingent Football Team visit to India from November 1921 to March 1922, the team played 14 games in several regions of the country. Gandhiji was spending a sizable amount of time with the team during their visit to Ahmadabad.

### **Conclusion :**

It is concluded from the above details that the Gandhian method of direct nonviolent action, known as Satyagraha, primarily rests on the belief of

conversion and considers it as the most effective nonviolent method of conducting conflict. Gandhi's view, the conversion is not only the morally correct way to conduct conflict but it also involves a dialectical process by which one can arrive at the truth or at least approach it. Mahatma Gandhiji had a perfect and clear vision of a free India, independent India, it is this vision which brought him from South Africa to India. He worked with this vision, but the vision was value centric - ' Satyagraha & Ahimsa' ( Satyagraha - truth; Ahimsa - nonviolence). Galtung (1992) acknowledges Satyagraha as a ' contribution to the theory and practice of behavior in group struggle'. This views was seen in Salt Stayagraha, Dandi March and established football clubs in South Africa for mastering the art of nonviolence of Gandhi's leadership. 2nd October, the day that is celebrated across the country as the birthday of the 'Father of Nation' - Mahatma Gandhi. 'Bapu' as he was fondly Known as, is respected and idolized not only in India, but across the world for his nonviolent principles of protest and scholar ways. When we look at today's complex world, feeling that his links with football and his usage of the game to benefit his community programs are less well known. Today when we easy access with to guns and pistols, there are many who wonder how the Gandhiji's idea of Satyagraha unfortunately is no longer seen as a powerful weapon in the fight against global terrorism and irrational violence that is presently shaking the world.

#### **References :**

University News a weekly Journal of Higher education, New - Delhi, Association of Indian Universities AIU House, VOL. 57, No.39, September 30- October 06, 2019, PP-45,57,103,126.

#### **Websites :**

<https://www.goal.com>>2016/10/02

<https://www.mkgandhi.org>>gandhi

<https://m.indiatimes.com>>other

<https://thebridge.in>>football

<https://www.football.com>>maha...

<https://inshorts.com>>news>m