
MAHATMA GANDHI - LIQUOR ADDICTION IS A CURSE TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Abstract: Mahatma Gandhi identified the difficulties faced by wives of alcohol/liquor addicts in maintenance of family necessities and upbringing their children. And indecent behaviour of drunkards with their spouses and women in their families. Children are deprived from their education, provision of nutritious food, healthy environment, their psychology and character of children are also disturbed that is the alcohol addictions is destroying National future itself, because the children are the future of Nation. But, because of misbehaviour of drunkard family member and continuous quarrels within the family forced the children to become child labour. This problem is persistent even in 21st century. If the humanity doesn't realize this evil of liquor drinking habit the future of the mankind ends up in melancholy. The money earning by State Governments from taxation on or liquor sales is heinous and crime destroying peace and prosperity of many families. The deprivation to the State Governments of the alcohol revenue is of the least importance in the prohibition campaign. The country is simply impatient of the evil itself. In no country in the World will it be possible to carry on this illegal business in the face of the united and the enlightened opposition of a people, such as is now to be witnessed in the economy of India.

Keywords: Addiction, Nutritious Food, Healthy Environment, Psychology, Humanity, Melancholy, Heinous, Prohibition Campaign.

Introduction: Mahatma Gandhi ideals, slogans and guidance's are theoretically best for humanity and development of populous democracies because democracies with high population majority people during and after independence are generally under below poverty line. Indian people are also deprived by Colonial rulers from Europe. They annexed majority countries around the World to exploit their wealth of nations. India also suffered maximum for hundreds of years by a number of variety of Invaders. Majority of human resources in India and the natural resources of the country like Gold, Silver and Copper also plundered. At the time of Independence the country experienced poverty, famine, epidemic diseases at that stage Mahatma Gandhi has given number of advices to the Government through many a number of News papers and books but, all his advices ignored by Governments of that period. Still the Constitution writers taken some of the Gandhian ideologies and framed Directive Principles of the Constitution of India. Where those elders identified the menace of consumption of liquor and its hurdles to the faster development of lives of socio economically poorer sections of the families and its negative impact on National Development.

Mahatma Gandhi advised the Moderates that India must not be made serious by compulsion and that those who wish to drink must have facilities provided to them. The state does not cater for the immoral and involve in bad addictions if its people. It is the responsibility of Government not to regulate or license houses of ill fame. And should not provide facilities for thieves to indulge their propensity for thieving and perhaps even flesh trade. Mahatma also questioned Is it not often the parent of both? He asked the moderates to join the country in sweeping out existence of drink revenue and abolishing the liquor-shops and also identified that many liquor-sellers after independence expressed gladly to close their shops, if the money paid by them were refunded.

Mahatma Gandhi was very much worried about the education of the children, he has taken risk to suggest the moderates and newly formed Government that it is a matter of deep humiliation for the country to find its children educated from drink revenue. And made it clear we deserve the curse of posterity if unless wisely decide to eradicate the drink evil, even though we may have to sacrifice the education of our children. But we need not. He also know many of authoritarians might have felt fun at the idea of making education self-supporting by introduction of spinning in schools and colleges. And he assured that it solves the problem of education as nothing else can.

It is criminal to spend the income from the sale of intoxicants on the education of the nation's children or other public services. The government must overcome the temptation of using such revenue for nation-building purposes. Experience has shown that the moral and physical gain of the abstainer more than makes up for the loss of this tainted revenue. Gandhi expressed If once we succeed in eradicating the evil, we will easily find other ways and means of increasing the nation's income.

Regarding this statement of Gandhi the prohibition implementation in Bihar State by Mr. Nitish Kumar has virtually shown the result. Though the Central Government is instructing all the State Governments they are not listening to Centre advice regarding Prohibition implementation. Here, the Bihar example has proven the development figures regarding purchase and production i.e. Marketing graph of the state has proved that prohibition is neither a financial nor a political nightmare. He has made up Rs 4,000 crore annual revenue loss by rationalising tax burden. As a result, his state has seen a jump in rural savings that, in turn, has led to 30-50 per cent rise in consumption of food products and purchase of appliances, two-wheelers and construction material. Instances of murder, gang robberies, traffic accidents, domestic violence have gone down by 20 to 30 per cent. This practical example can be adopted for the present day growth deficiencies shown by market surveys that their analysis shown the growth rate has fallen. This problem is created by non implementation of prohibition in majority states. In recent times as the working class spending majority of their hard money on liquor consumption. If the Governments can and will implement prohibition definitely the economic growth rate will improve to the highest levels above International average, as the income which is spent on liquor consumption diverts to purchase of utility goods, housing and it will spent on productive sectors. Then they will be growth in employment generation also.

At present the Local and Regional political parties encouraging unhealthy implementation of filthy welfare programmes which will provoke lethargy in the working class and indirectly backstabbing the economy of the nation. For the purpose of these unhealthy welfare programmes the State Governments need lot of currency to amass this money the State Governments stooped to sale of liquor by Government itself. This because the resiliencies action to the nation's economy in all the Southern States except Karnataka. But, leaders of these local and regional political parties are not realizing the evil what they are creating the future of the nation and people for their personal authoritarian purposes.

Referring to the letter of Mahatma Gandhi Mr. Konda Venkatappaya B.L. (1866-1948) was a noted lawyer, Indian freedom fighter and politician from Andhra Pradesh. He is one of the founders and first editor of "Krishna Patrika", leading weekly Telugu magazine during the early 20th century quoted that after Independence that every member of political parties are craving to become MLAs (Member of Legislative Assembly) and most of them want to bribe the public and become financially wealthy through evil business practises. But they are not serving people just serving themselves. At present also it is a truth and their attitude is becoming more and more greedy. This is because of enormous increase in election campaign purpose and expenditure.

Conclusion: Mahatma Gandhi pointed out regarding unnecessary growth in salaries of Public Servants, Government Servants and Legislative Members he identified and mentioned this issue at early days of Independence. Drinking addiction is most dangerous and health hazard. It is one of the causes of chronic diseases like Liver Cirrhosis, Neurosis (Brain and Nervous system problems), Gastritis, Heart

disease, Anemia, Ulcers, Inflammation, Cancers etc. Addiction of alcohol leads to Epilepsy, Seizures, Alcoholic Pancreatic, Alcoholic Withdrawals etc.

State Governments not realizing the adverse impact of alcoholism on Economic Development of Nation. The social benefits of prohibition seem to have not taken seriously both public and political system. And the society has become ignorant and doesn't cares if consumption of alcohol puts safety of men and women in danger, triggers domestic violence, causes deaths due to drunken driving and deadly brawls in the neighbourhood on petty matters and makes youths addicts and useless for any productive work.

As we all know that Prohibition is the legal act of prohibiting the manufacture, storage, transportation and sale of alcohol, including alcoholic beverages. The term is also used to refer to periods in the history of nations when they banned alcohol consumption, such as in the US during 1920-33. One-fourth of India's population was under prohibition by 1954. But most States did not continue with the policy. in present scenario, prohibition in India exists in Gujarat and Nagaland, parts of Manipur as well as Lakshadweep. It's time for other chief ministers to stop crying of distress and follow the ideology to make the Mahatma proud of his countrymen who chosen wrong path.

Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary will be marked by hypocritical effective contribution to our freedom but not a word about respecting one of his heart desires "**Keep India Liquor-Free**".

If I was appointed dictator for one hour for all India, the first thing I would do would be to close without compensation all the liquor shops, and compel factory owners to produce humane conditions rooms where these workmen would get innocent drinks and equally innocent amusements.

Young India, 25-6-'31

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