

LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK AND MAHATMA GANDHI

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ABSTRACT

Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi were the most prominent leaders who have the spirit of bravery and sacrifice. Both used several similar techniques of agitation and slogans to encourage the masses. Also, it is observed that numerous people called Lokmanya Tilak as the 'father of the Indian freedom struggle'. For the present study, the researcher performed a thorough and detailed exploration and analysis of Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi's life through related research, data, literature and interviews. To make the intriguing understanding of their life and work, the researcher also studied several books, papers, writings, and speeches and tried to highlight various important facts about Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi.

Keywords

LokmanyaTilak, Mahatma Gandhi, life, simple life, thoughts

INTRODUCTION

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "LokmanyaTilak was an ocean and a Maker of Modern India". Further, we understood significant facts about Tilak by reading the literature available on him and observed that LokmanyaTilak was a multi-faceted personality, and a visionary of nationalism. We found that they have created inspired masses and united people from all the provinces, religions, languages, cultures, castes, and creeds to form a single nation. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 3).

We observed that in honour and memory of Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi formed a university which was known as the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 87). LokmanyaTilak worked dedicatedly with the visionary path to make India free from British rule. He was well aware of the fact that obtaining freedom was a time-consuming process. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 91). And for achieving the freedom they must need massive freedom fighters with the same idealistic determination. KakasahebKhadilkar, Gangadharrao Deshpande were the followers of Gandhi. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 124).

According to Acharya Javadekar's, "Lokmanya Tilak did pioneering work in educating the Indian masses. He was the 'apostle of civil revolt' whereas Gandhiji spread education to the masses and lead the movement to its final goal of 'Swaraj'." In 1920, after the death of Lokmanya Tilak, Gandhiji spread the concept of non-violence and non-cooperation to the revolutionaries.

OBJECTIVES

- i. To find out the Lokmanya Tilak's life motto
- ii. To understand Mahatma Gandhi's life motto
- iii. To understand mis-concepts about Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi
- iv. To understand the similarities between B. G. Tilak and M. K. Gandhi

BACKGROUND OF LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK AND GANDHI:

There were three great personalities, including Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, and Gokhale, who played a significant role in the struggle for India's independence. Gokhale was a fluent English speaker. He believed in the British ideals of justice and fair play. Here, in this paper, it is noticed that during the early phase of the movement, Gokhale followed a softer path and supported Tilak for the Bombay Council Bill.

Apart from this, the researcher has obtained several references where it is found that Lokmanya Tilak struggled to join the Indian National Congress. Lokmanya Tilak worked with the youth and scorched the fire in their hearts for Swaraj. He encouraged youth and gained their confidence and impelled their minds and approach to accomplish resolutions.

METHOD USED IN THE PRESENT RESEARCH:

To understand the similarities between Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi, we did this research. We have gone through available literature on both of legendary lives, their principles, ideas about nationalism. Besides books, papers, and other platforms, the researcher has used the data available on online resources too.

After obtaining detailed knowledge of Tilak and Gandhi, the researcher has conducted several interviews with selective authentic resources. The present study was descriptive and historical made by using primary and secondary data. All the obtained information was tested and verified by using various techniques.

NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

Through the present study, the researcher has attempted to highlight the main ideas of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. Also, the study was made to find out the relevance of their plans for the cause of the nation. Also, the researcher tried to find out the ideological similarities and differences between Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. Through the present study, we attempted to achieve the weaknesses and positive aspects of Tilak's and Gandhi's life.

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- iv. To understand the similarities between Tilak and Gandhi

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To accomplish the goals of the research, here, the researcher has used primary and secondary methods of data. Also, the researcher has completed this study under the guidance of the research guide. Besides this, we have taken the data available in the published and unpublished format. All the obtained data were cross-verified by using various parameters. Here, the researcher has kept the scope of research limited and drawn all the information by the survey method. The survey method has helped the researcher to obtain accurate data.

OUR FINDINGS:

Through the present paper, the researcher has obtained complete knowledge about Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. The researcher has presented the information after proper interpretation and editing. Through this paper, the researcher has tried to highlight the various facts of Tilak and Gandhi's personality. Also, we have described the similarities and dissimilarities between them. All the obtained information was presented in the following format.

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's Life Motto

While performing the study on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, we observed the life motto. Here we wanted to elaborate on those valuable motives of Tilak's life. Here the researcher has observed that LokmanyaBalGangadharTilakenvisionedto achieve Swarajya by combining people and

act against the British. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 40). He started the Swaraj movement to achieve national unity. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 106).

The researcher has observed that, during the pre-Independence period, it was challenging to reach to people. So, connect with people, Lokmanya Tilak took a series of initiatives, and 'Kesari', 'Mahratta', both newspapers were proof of his actions. He fulfilled his aim of inspiring youth and common man through these newspapers. Along with this, he aimed to make youth self-reliant and develop a feeling of self-help among them. We found that Lokmanya Tilak wanted young Indians to learn both traditional and modern sciences. This inspired him to start national education and through which he fulfilled his ambition of creating the feeling of nationalism from childhood itself.(Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 105).

While going through various goals of Lokmanya Tilak we observed that he tried hard for the benefit of the nation and the emancipation of the motherland till his last breath. Tilak passed away by leaving a glorious legacy for posterity. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 106).

Here the researcher has observed that Tilak was the act-oriented person who used all means to enhance the chances of success and followed the philosophy of Lord Krishna, of right action. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 106).

Mahatma Gandhi's Life Motto

In the present study, we have studied Mahatma Gandhi's life motto and his method of working. We observed that Mahatma Gandhi was the matchless political leader and pioneered the new method of "Satyagraha". Besides this, we found that Mahatma Gandhi was fundamentally a moral and social philosopher. He was interested in resolving various concerns of the individual and society. (Santhanam K., "Basic Principles OfGandhism").

We observed that Gandhi's primary purpose was to fight for the nation's freedom using non-violence. Also, he tried the idea of Satyagraha, or passive resistance, to help oppressed people. He followed the path of peace and cooperation and advocated the fair treatment of untouchables in India. At last, the researcher has observed that Gandhi's goals and principles were different; still, his aim remains the same to attain independence for their country. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 132).

Besides this, Gandhi's purpose of life was to create a life of a common man better. He followed the path of non-violence and truth to achieve goals such as the resolution of poverty, individual rights, and financial freedom. We observed that Gandhi wanted to make India free from domination, discrimination, and unfair taxes that were imposed upon the countrymen by foreign governments. Also, he had a strong belief in natural education.

Similarities Between Tilak and Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi and Lokmanya Tilak both were the great personalities who were born within a few years of each other. According to obtained data, Lokmanya Tilak was born on July 23, 1856, while Mahatma Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 (Tilak D.J., Tilak G., 2019, 132). As we have already discussed that, both Tilak and Gandhi were from different background and philosophies. Still, they greatly admired and respected each other's work. But both of them spent their life for the common cause of the nation and its independence. Both imparted their efforts to obtain freedom from British rule. (Tilak D.J., Tilak G., 2019, 132).

We observed that both of them supported the Swadeshi and Boycott movement, and they saw it as the essential step towards the struggle. Apart from this, we found that both contributed to the integration of the lower middle class, peasants, artisans, and workers. Both were contributed to relax the financial burden on the common man by implementing different strategies. Apart from this, Tilak and Gandhi used the press as a platform of mass education. (<https://www.drishtias.com>). We obtained more knowledge about Lokmanya Tilak that he built the right public spirit by advocating a non-violent movement. Also, he was against injustice. (Tilak D.J., Tilak G., 2019, 132).

Similar Views of Gandhi And Tilak

For this study, we have gone through several references and literature where we observed certain essential things about Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. Both were clear with the fact that the only thing that drove the British was their imperial self-interest. Further, they knew that the British would not apply the same yardstick of law and justice to Indians. Also, we obtained information that Tilak and Gandhi were intensely action-oriented personalities. They thought that mere representations and

appeals were worthless. According to them, it was challenging to attain their goal without applying the force on the British rulers. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 132).

Further, we found that both Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi have developed the same view. According to both of them, they aroused and unified the masses into a movement. The righteous goal of self-rule was to bring independence to India was inevitable. To spread their visibility, they conducted Congress sessions in different parts of the country. Also, they demonstrated that there was no regional bias to Congress. Thus, they both advocated building mass support for the independence movement. Tilak and Gandhi had a strong belief in the importance of the mother tongue and the need for national education.

Tilak was against the mindless revolutionary acts. Apart from this, we observed that Tilak and Gandhiji believed in the unity of the nation. They fully aware of the British's 'divide and rule' policy, so they advised the Hindu majority to move ahead and sacrifice for the cause of the nation. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 133).

Differences between Gandhi And Tilak

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a man of active resistance, while Gandhi was a proliferator of passive resistance. We observed that the traditional, modern, and practical approach was the basis of Lokmanya Tilak's thoughts. While Gandhi used to believe in a holistic, integrated approach like swayampurnaKhadi, non-violence, and the truth. Mahatma Gandhi wanted "Spiritualising politics" but LokmanyaTilak was clear that it was not for simple people or sadhus. (Tilak D.J.,Tilak G., 2019, 133).

CONCLUSION:

From the present study, the researcher aspired to conclude that both Mahatma Gandhi and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak contributed their best efforts to the cause of the nation and they changed the intensity and force of India's freedom struggle through their different approaches. They supported and strengthened the various movements by using their respective ideologies and beliefs.

1. Life principles and goals of both Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi were formed for the common cause.
2. LokmanyaTilakand Mahatma Gandhi lived and revered a simple life,and they had prodigious thinking.

3. Both were admired, followed and inspired by a huge mob of Indian people with the same determination for freedom.
4. Similarities and differences between Lokmanya and Mahatma helped the nation to obtain freedom.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Due to pressing of time and limitations, the present study can be emphasized on few individualities and attributes of the great leaders i.e. Lokmanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi. Here the researcher has concluded the paper with recommendations for future research.

1. Further the study to be made to understand the importance of Tilak's simple living and supporting truth in attaining success.
2. Obtaining information about Lokmanya Tilak and Gandhi's views and foresight in attaining new perspectives for national development can be the topic of further research.
3. Thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi on Swayampurna and its impact on his followers creates the scope of next research study.
4. Different attributes and individualities in their personalities which influenced them both personally, can be the further research study topic.
5. Further the research to be performed to obtain in depth understanding of spiritualizing politics.

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