

## **PREFACE**

In today's world full of distrust and complexities Mahatma Gandhi and his concept of nonviolence have become both a demand and a necessity. The uniqueness of Mahatma Gandhi lies in the fact that he did not merely argued or preached nonviolence as an ideal principle to be practiced but used and propagated it as a political ideology and a strategy to inspire and mobilise the masses to fight against government atrocities. He popularised the real essence and strength of nonviolence by practicing and applying it in his day to day activities. According to him it is not the weapon of weak and one who considers it as passive has not understood its real meaning.

India being the birth place of a great philosopher Mahatma Gandhi and the longest running democracy is always subjected to questions like how far being a birthplace of such a great personality, she has been able to adopt his principles? Secondly, weather the concept of nonviolence is still relevant in India? Thirdly, how far the new on-going social movements which are based on Gandhian philosophy, are doing justice to his concept of nonviolence? All these questions have become a talk of time.

The thesis is a humble attempt to look into the above questions. For this it is very important to understand the origin of nonviolence in India and Mahatma Gandhi's conception of nonviolence. Thus Chapter II deals with the origin of nonviolence in India and Chapter III deals with Gandhi's concept of nonviolence. It also focuses on the various influences which helped him to shape his concept of nonviolence. The chapter IV and V focuses on the relevance and need of nonviolence in present scenario. Chapter V critically analyses the Gandhian philosophy and try to show that whether it has been adopted fully or partially. It also provides few suggestions for implementing it in the society.

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