



ROLE OF THE POLICE IN SOCIETY FOR IMPLEMENTING MAHATMA GANDHI TANTA MUKTI GAON MOHIM.

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Abstract

The concept of justice is as old as origin and growth of human society itself. The social nature of man demands that he must live peacefully in society. There is positive impact of Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim (MGTMG) on villagers and it plays an important role to change their socio-economic condition. This study has emphasized role of the police for the implementing the Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim in Raigad district in Maharashtra, India, during the year 1 Sept. 2007 to 30 April 2008.

Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim, society, Role of Police.

The State of Maharashtra is a vigilant and active State in India, which is the largest democracy in the world. In this State people from different castes, sub-castes, professions, business communities etc. live together without discrimination. In addition to this, original inhabitants, settlers and people who have migrated from other States follow their own customs, traditions, ceremonies, festivals, and beliefs and from this a multifarious society has emerged. Due to composite and vast population, the ratio of suits and disputes is more in Maharashtra. Gandhian philosophy of understanding the universe to be an organic whole exists on several planes - the spiritual or religious, moral, political, economic, social, individual and collective. The spiritual or religious element, and God, is at its core. Human nature is regarded as fundamentally virtuous. All individuals are believed to be capable of high moral development, and of reform. The twin cardinal principles of Gandhi's thought are truth and nonviolence. It should be remembered that the English word "truth" is an imperfect translation of the Sanskrit, "satya", and "nonviolence", an even more imperfect translation of "ahimsa". Ahimsa, far from meaning mere peacefulness or the absence of overt violence, is understood by Gandhi to denote active love - the pole opposite of violence, or "himsa", in every sense. The ultimate station Gandhi assigns nonviolence stems from two main points. First, if according to the Divine Reality all life is one, then all violence committed towards another is violence towards oneself, towards the collective, whole self, and thus "self"-destructive and counter to the universal law of life, which is love. Second, Gandhi believed that ahimsa is the most powerful force in existence. Had himsa been superior to ahimsa, humankind would long ago have succeeded in destroying itself. The human race certainly could not have progressed as far as it has, even if universal justice remains far off the horizon. From both viewpoints, nonviolence or love is regarded as the highest law of humankind. Although there are elements of unity in Gandhi's thought, they are not reduced to a system.

The present Raigad district owes its name from the

historical fort of Raigad built by Shri. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and is the erstwhile Kolaba district of Maharashtra state. The reorganization of state in 1956, the Kolaba district was incorporated in Bombay State. Since 1960, it forms a part of Maharashtra state. Kolaba district has been renamed as Raigad district from 1st January 1981. Raigad district forms a part of Kokan plain and has a north-south coastline of Arabian Sea of about 240 km. The district is having natural scenic beauty and historical background with forts and ports constructed by Shri. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Raigad district comprising of 15 tahsils and 1952 village covers total geographical area of 686892 hectares (7148 Sq. kms) which is 3.32% of the total geographical area of the State. Population plays a key role in the development of the agriculture of the region. Like other districts of Maharashtra Raigad is essentially a district of villages. The total population of the district as per census 2001 was 2207929 of which 75.78% is rural and 24.22% is urban population. Out of this population 50.63% are male and 49.38% are female population. They are altogether 1919 inhabited places in the district of which 1893 are villages and 26 municipal towns. The Raigad district comes in Kokan region having long costal boundary. The rice and sea food is the main food. Now-a-days it has become a good destination to industries and business due to its proximity to Mumbai and ports and other transport facilities.

The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement has been implemented in the year 2007 from 15th August 2007 at the grass roots level for the purpose of providing Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta villages. Thus it is helpful to common man who wants to live Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta, peaceful and secured life. Police played vital and significant role in implementation of M.G.T.A. during the year 1 Sept. 2007 to 30 April 2008 in order to get decrease in serious crime offences.

Objectives : To understand the role of police for Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim in study region.

Hypothesis : There is positive impact of police role for the implementing the Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon



Mohim on villagers and it plays an important role to change their socio-economic condition.

Methodology : This study has emphasized mainly police role for the implementing the Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim in Raigad district. For this purpose, data obtained from the primary and secondary sources supplemented in making general observations.

Findings : The data was analyzed through content analysis and they are discussed below in detail. Most of the Primary data and Secondary data obtained from following sources.

Primary data : It is the first hand data. Researcher collected this kind of data by taking gramsabha, field observation, interview of villagers etc.

Secondary data : It is the second hand data which is collected by different sources such as District census hand book of Raigad District, socio-economic review and statistical abstracts of Raigad District, Gazetteers of Raigad District, Rainfall data from Ministry Water Resources, Central Ground water Board, Agro-ecological data from Konkan Agricultural University, Dapoli, International institute of population studies, Mumbai, Constitution of India, Various books related to law and Judgments, Police station Records, Department of Home Ministry, Data from the United Nations Intergovernmental framework Term for preventive action, Various Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, Various books and through internet source, Office of district social Welfare, Raigad, Zilla Parishad Raigad, Judicial Magistrate First Class of All Tahsil, Sub Divisional Magistrate Courts of All Sub Division, District and Session Courts.

In ancient India there was Nyaya Panchayat or Jat Panchayat System to solve civil as well as criminal disputes in society. In British period Britishers constituted and established present judicial system. The present judicial system is a hierarchical pattern. At the bottom there are subordinate civil and criminal judiciary, thereafter High Courts for each State and at the top the Supreme Court of India. Central and State Government also established Alternative Disputes Redressal systems like Lok Adalat, Family Courts and tribunals. All this judicial system works to fulfill the object of justice.

Discussion

Important Role of Police in MGTA : Police had played a crucial role in maintenance of peace and enforcement of law and order within its territorial jurisdiction. To safeguard the lives and property of the people and protect them against violence, intimidation, oppression and disorder is the primary duty of the Police. Police plays an important functionary of criminal justice system. Crime prevention certainly involves the services of certain law enforcement agencies to detect and investigate crimes and apprehend criminals for prosecution in law courts. A

number of functional agencies, notably the police, the courts and the prisons or after care institutions, are involved in the administration of criminal justice. Police as a functionary of criminal justice system, plays very important role in the charges against accused having been framed. During the course of Tanta mukta village campaign, if applications are received directly by police station then police station in-charge should take the cognizance as per the existing system and conduct the enquiry to take action. But immediately on receipt of such application a copy of the application should be submitted to the Tanta mukta village committee. The Tanta mukta village committee should take the note of such complaint and should make equal simultaneous efforts to settle the dispute between parties. If the 20 dispute mentioned in application is settled, it should be noted in register 3 (a) and dispose off the matter by conciliation at level of police station.

The Police Officers with Revenue Officers were made full efforts to implement the Tanta mukta village campaign effectively. During the course of tour to the area of their jurisdiction, by visiting these villages, they used to review the progress of implementation of Tanta mukta village campaign. They would discuss about the difficulties experienced by the villages and Tanta mukta village committee in implementation of this campaign and they would solve the difficulties and give guidance and encouragement for implementation of this campaign.

The in-charge of police station with Tahasildar during the course of their tour had visited the villages participating in the campaign and give guidance to Tanta mukta village committees and help them to solve their problems and cooperate in the settlement of disputes. Further Tahasildar and Police Station In-charge had arranged for joint tour and give guidance and encouragement to the villages for participating in the campaign.

How helpful to Police Department to decrease rate of crime and their workload : In the villages, the disputes arise out of trifling matters which should not take the shape of major disputes, such disputes include disputes of properties, such disputes should not cause loss and disturbance to the peace of the families, society and create danger to villages, therefore it is necessary to take measures to avoid origination of such disputes and for amicable settlement of the existing disputes with the cooperation of the public under administrative arrangements like "Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim". The scheme as a way gets rid of small disputes in the village and thus brings about harmony. It also reduces the work pressure on policemen considerably. The Police system in India is getting additionally overburdened due to Cognizable and non-cognizable offences which are Compoundable under law, i.e. which can be settled with



the consent of the parties like physical assault, embezzlement of property, various kinds of fraud, cheating etc. The MGTA aims to resolve village disputes amicably with the Cooperation of the people by creating a podium for reconciliation. The overall impact of the campaign improves caste and religious ties in multi-community villages, defuse political tension, create a general atmosphere of security and ownership of common interest in the State. It has brought justice and reconciliation at the door steps of the citizens, while reducing the load of the police and judiciary. Police played vital and significant role in implementation of M.G.T.A. during the year 1 Sept. 2007 to 30April 2008 in order to get decrease in serious crime offences.

Table 1 and **Figure 1** shows clearly the decrease in serious property offences after implementation of M.G.T.A. during the year 1 Sept. 2007 to 30April 2008.

Classification of crime	1-Sept-2006 to 30-Apr-2007	1-Sept-2007 to 30-Apr-2008	Difference
Dacoity	17	7	-10
Robbery	22	10	-12
House Breaking	135	68	-67
Theft	306	197	-109
Total	480	282	-198

Drop in Property Related Crime - 58.75%

Table 1: Property Offences before and after implementation of M.G.T.A.

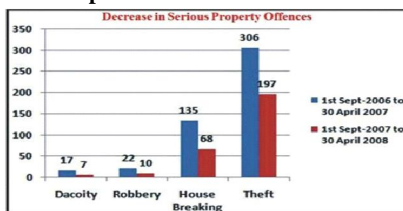


Figure 1: Comparative chart before and after implementation of M.G.T.A.

Conclusion : As per the analysis there are many points for appraisal of the Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement, as such :

The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement has been implemented in the year 2007 from 15th August 2007 at the grass roots level for the purpose of providing Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta villages. Thus it is helpful to common man who wants to live Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta, peaceful and secured life.

The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement serves the purpose Fundamental Rights given in Indian Constitution like Right to life, Right to speedy trial and Right to free legal aid.

As we known about Indian Judicial system, which is over burdened with many pending cases. Thus The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement

will help in large extent to reduce the workload of our judicial system, specifically work load of sub-ordinate Courts.

The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement avoids lengthy procedure in civil as well as criminal cases and so it will automatically save time and money of every person, specifically poor villagers.

By going to door step at citizen it serves the purpose of justice to every citizen.

The rate of solving civil, revenue and criminal cases increasing, which will also help

to keep the system moving.

Because of lengthy procedure of regular civil and criminal courts, many times parties of suits, an accused or victims dies. In this situation how the aim of judiciary achieved? To avoid this it is better to use procedure followed by the Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement.

Because of many factors like illiteracy, lack of knowledge of law and court procedure, financial position of party, advocacy and many other factors justice delayed, which is as like justice denied. The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement avoids delay in justice.

The Mahatma Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukta Village Movement worked as ‘Precaution is better than cure’.

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