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Ideological similarities and differences between Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi

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Abstract

This research paper compares and contrasts Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi, two significant Indian freedom leaders. This study compares their backgrounds, attitudes, and contributions to understand their diverse approaches to social and political transformation. The paper investigates Malaviya and Gandhi's activism's underlying values of spirituality, social reform, and Indian nationalism using biographical records, scholarly publications, and primary materials. It examines how both figures advocated peaceful resistance to colonial tyranny based on ahimsa (non-violence). The text also describes Malaviya and Gandhi's different independence paths. Gandhi advocated civil disobedience and mass mobilization, while Malaviya advocated negotiation and constitutional measures inside the Indian National Congress. The study shows how Malaviya and Gandhi shaped Indian society and politics through their economic, religious, and legacies. It highlights their complicated philosophies and the multitude of voices in the Indian liberation struggle, revealing the rich fabric of ideas that shaped independence. This research helps us understand the intellectual and ideological currents that drove the Indian independence movement by highlighting Malaviya and Gandhi's diverse perspectives as they worked toward a free and equitable India.

Keywords: Ideological, Similarities, contributions, leaders, Indian, independence etc.

Introduction

Both Mahatma Gandhi and Madan Mohan Malaviya are considered to be towering characters in the annals of Indian history. Both of these individuals had a significant role in determining the course of the Indian freedom movement. In spite of the fact that their contributions are diverse, they demonstrate a common dedication to the principles of liberty, social justice, and spiritual revitalization. Malaviya and Gandhi, who were both contemporaries and collaborators within the Indian National Congress, navigated the turbulent currents of colonial power using different techniques and philosophical underpinnings (Wolpert, S., 2008) ^[8]. Malaviya and Gandhi were both members of the Indian National Congress. This study intends to investigate the ideological similarities and differences that exist between these two distinguished leaders, with the goal of shining light on the intricate web of beliefs that served as the driving force behind the fight for independence. A great appreciation for spirituality and moral integrity was at the core of their common vision for the future. According to (Chatterjee, 2019) ^[1], Malaviya, a devoted Hindu, and Gandhi, who was profoundly influenced by Hindu philosophy, discovered that they shared a common ground in the ideal of ahimsa, which may be translated as non-violence, as a guiding force in their acts. Not only did their unflinching dedication to ahimsa fill the struggle for liberation with moral fortitude, but it also acted as a guiding light for future movements that advocated for peace and justice all across the world.

Background Information

It was during the latter half of the 19th century and the early 20th century that Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi emerged as two of the most influential figures in the Indian independence struggle. Their histories, experiences, and philosophies all played significant roles in determining the contributions that they made to the fight against British colonial power.

Madan Mohan Malaviya

An influential Indian educator, politician, and independence warrior, Madan Mohan Malaviya was born on December 25, 1861 in Allahabad, India.

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He was also a notable liberation fighter. He began his academic career at the University of Calcutta and went on to study law at Allahabad University after completing his undergraduate degree. In his early career as a lawyer, Malaviya created the framework for his later involvement in public life, where he championed causes linked to education, social change, and Hindu revivalism (Bose, S., & Jalal, A., 2003) ^[9]. Malaviya ultimately became a prominent figure in the field of Hindu revivalism.

Malaviya's profound dedication to education was the impetus for his establishment of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916. This institution continues to be regarded as one of the most prestigious educational establishments in India. By means of BHU, Malaviya endeavored to combine the traditional Indian educational system with the contemporary educational system, with the goal of highlighting the significance of cultural heritage and values in the pursuit of knowledge (Pathak, 2017) ^[4].

Malaviya was a prominent figure in the Indian National Congress, where he advocated for constitutional reforms and the empowerment of Indians within the framework of British colonial rule. In addition to his contributions to education, Malaviya was also a notable figure in the field of education. In his capacity as a moderate leader within the Congress, Malaviya highlighted the importance of engaging in conversation and working together with the British administration in order to make gradual progress toward achieving self-rule (Sen, 2014) ^[7].

Mahatma Gandhi

Born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, more commonly referred to as Mahatma Gandhi, was a prominent political figure. The early years of Gandhi's life were characterized by his exposure to the ideals of truth, non-violence, and self-discipline. These principles were originally instilled in him by his upbringing as a devoted Hindu, and they were later elaborated upon by his studies in law in England.

The transforming experiences that Gandhi had in South Africa, where he experienced personally the abuses that Indian immigrants suffered, lay the foundation for his philosophy of Satyagraha, which translates to "truth force." Satyagraha is a strategy of resistance against oppression (Brown, 2019) ^[2]. As an advocate of human rights and nonviolent resistance, he rose to prominence on the international scene as a result of his participation in the fight for civil rights in South Africa that was led by the Indian community.

Gandhi quickly became involved in the Indian independence movement upon his return to India in 1915. He advocated for Swaraj, which is another name for self-rule, as the ultimate objective of the Indian people. Gandhi's approach to political engagement was driven by his ideology of ahimsa, which can be translated as "non-violence." He led huge campaigns of civil disobedience, non-cooperation, and boycotts against British rule (Guha, 2014) ^[3].

Comparative Analysis

The devotion to social reform, spiritual ideals, and the fight for Indian independence was something that Malaviya and Gandhi had in common, despite the fact that their histories and paths to fame were very different from one another. (Metcalf, B. D., & Metcalf, T. R., 2006) ^[10] Both leaders drew inspiration from their Hindu faith and attempted to

incorporate spiritual ideas into their activism. Within their activism, they emphasized the significance of moral integrity and nonviolence in the pursuit of justice.

While Malaviya's primary focus was on education and cultural revivalism within the context of moderate politics, Gandhi took a more radical approach, organizing the masses through acts of civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance. Malaviya's approach was more moderate than Gandhi's. According to (Panigrahi, 2004) ^[11], despite the fact that they employed different strategies, both leaders were essential in energizing public opinion and generating support for the cause of Indian independence.

Similarities in Ideology

Despite the fact that Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi came from different backgrounds and had different tactics, they shared major commonalities in their philosophies. These connections were notably evident in their dedication to spirituality, social reform, and the fight for Indian independence.

Spiritual Values

Both Malaviya and Gandhi were profoundly impacted by their Hindu faith, and they drew upon spiritual ideas in order to shape their worldview and their activity. According to Rai (2009) ^[6], Malaviya, a devout Hindu, had the belief that it was essential to incorporate religious and moral principles into public life. She viewed education as a means of teaching spiritual and ethical traits in the general population. In a similar manner, Gandhi's ideology was founded on Hindu spirituality, namely the concept of Satyagraha (truth-force) as a kind of moral struggle against injustice and the principle of ahimsa (non-violence) as a non-violent principle (Fischer, 2002) ^[5].

Malaviya and Gandhi's ideas were founded on the principle of ahimsa, which served as a foundational principle that guided their activities and advocacy for peaceful coexistence and societal harmony throughout their lives. They considered nonviolence not merely as a practical strategy for bringing about political change, but also as a profoundly ethical and spiritual ideal that proclaimed the intrinsic dignity and worth of every single human being (Gilmartin, D., & Lawrence, B., 2008) ^[12].

Social Reform

Both Malaviya and Gandhi were enthusiastic supporters of social reform, particularly in the context of tackling the disparities and injustices that were widespread in Indian society. His advocacy for the eradication of social evils such as untouchability and caste prejudice, as well as his endeavors to promote education and upliftment of neglected people, are examples of Malaviya's efforts to bring about social reform (Ludden, D., 2002) ^[13]. Malaviya's activities included social reform.

In a similar vein, Gandhi's plan for social transformation included a wide range of topics, such as the elimination of untouchability, the promotion of unity between Hindus and Muslims, and the empowerment of women. Gandhi's goal was to encourage economic self-sufficiency and social cohesiveness at the grassroots level through the implementation of constructive programs such as the development of khadi (handspun fabric) and village industries (Habib, I., 2015) ^[14].

Indian Nationalism

Dedicated to the cause of Indian independence from British colonial control, Malaviya and Gandhi were both ardent nationalists who devoted their entire lives to the cause. As a result of their rejection of foreign dominance and exploitation, they held the belief that the Indian people had an inherent right to self-determination and sovereignty. To emphasize the necessity for Indians to reclaim their heritage and traditions in the face of colonialism, Malaviya's vision of Indian nationalism was founded on a sense of cultural pride and identity (Mukherjee, R., 2015) ^[15]. Malaviya's vision of Indian nationalism was established that way.

In a similar vein, Gandhi's conception of Indian nationalism was both inclusive and pluralistic, taking into account the wide range of religious, linguistic, and cultural traditions that exist inside India. According to (Chandra, B., 2008) ^[16], he envisioned a type of administration that was decentralized and founded on the ideals of Swaraj, which means self-rule, and Sarvodaya, which means welfare for all. In this form of governance, every individual would have a say in the overall decision-making process.

Because of their common dedication to spirituality, social reform, and Indian nationalism, Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi shared fundamental similarities in their philosophies. These similarities were rooted in their shared commitment to these elements. Both leaders, despite the fact that they pursued justice and freedom in different ways and placed different emphasis on different aspects of the fight, illustrated the everlasting significance of moral and ethical principles. Their legacies continue to inspire generations of activists and leaders in India and around the world, exemplifying the principles of truth, nonviolence, and human dignity that have stood the test of time from generation to generation.

Differences in Approach and Philosophy

In spite of the fact that Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi had similar objectives and principles, their approaches to social and political transformation were very different. This was due to the fact that they came from different backgrounds, had different experiences, and had different strategic concerns.

Approach to Politics

One of the most significant distinctions between Malaviya and Gandhi was the way in which they approached politics and the strategies they employed to fight against the control of the British colonial government. According to (Bhattacharya, 2010) ^[17], Malaviya, who was frequently regarded as a centrist within the Indian National Congress, argued for a gradualist strategy to gaining Indian self-rule. He placed an emphasis on the significance of constitutional techniques and discussion with the British administration. Within the context of the colonial system that was already in place, he adhered to the belief that legal and institutional reforms could be effective in achieving greater autonomy for Indians.

Gandhi took a more radical approach, which was defined by his promotion for nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience as a method of defying the power of the British government. According to (Bayly, C. A., 1988) ^[18], Gandhi's ideology of Satyagraha, also known as truth-force, aimed to mobilize the public in acts of peaceful resistance, with the goal of refusing to collaborate with unjust laws and

policies. Gandhi was able to garner public support and bring international attention to the misery of Indians living under colonial authority through the use of initiatives such as the Salt Satyagraha and the Quit India Movement.

Economic Views

Malaviya and Gandhi came to different conclusions regarding the economy and the ways in which they addressed issues of poverty and inequality. This was another area in which they differed. Malaviya, who had a background as an educator and champion for industrialization, advocated for the modernization of India's economy by promoting science, technology, and commerce (Datta, A., 2015) ^[19]. Malaviya's viewpoint was impacted by his background. He was of the opinion that economic growth was of utmost significance because it was a means of empowering Indians and supporting the progress of the nation.

Gandhi's economic theory was founded on the concepts of self-sufficiency, simplicity, and decentralized production throughout his whole life. In an effort to combat issues of poverty and unemployment, he pushed for the revitalization of traditional handicrafts and the promotion of village industries (Sarkar, S., 1983) ^[20]. Gandhi aimed to establish a more egalitarian and sustainable economic system through the implementation of his concept of Swadeshi, which translates to "self-sufficiency," and by placing an emphasis on the dignity of labor.

Role of Religion

Although Malaviya and Gandhi both drew inspiration from their Hindu faith, the ways in which they approached religion and the role that it played in public life were substantially different from one another. A devout Hindu and an advocate for Hindu revivalism, Malaviya underlined the significance of conserving Hindu culture and traditions in the face of colonial influence (Embree, A. T., 2002) ^[21]. Malaviya was a proponent of Hindu revivalism. As a method of warding off external dangers and preserving India's spiritual legacy, he was of the opinion that what was required was for the Hindu community to come together and show solidarity.

Gandhi's approach to religion was more inclusive and syncretic, putting an emphasis on the shared humanity and ideals that are at the foundation of all different religious traditions. Additionally, he advocated for the oneness of Hindus and Muslims, as well as the rejection of communalism and sectarianism (Nayar, P. B., 2007) ^[22]. He fostered interfaith discussion and collaboration within the community. The concept of Sarvodaya, which Gandhi referred to as "welfare of all," covered the well-being of individuals of all religions and backgrounds, transcending the limits that are typically associated with religion.

Both Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi had a devotion to the cause of Indian independence and social reform; nevertheless, their strategies for accomplishing these objectives were quite different from one another. In contrast to Gandhi's extreme strategies of civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance, Malaviya's politics were moderate, and she placed a strong focus on constitutional techniques. Furthermore, their economic opinions and their thoughts on religion represented diverse philosophical orientations, which were influenced by the situations and experiences that they had in their respective lives.

In spite of these disagreements, both Malaviya and Gandhi made significant contributions to the fight for Indian independence and left legacies that would last for years to come, serving as a source of motivation for activists and leaders. The variety of tactics that they take highlights the complexity of the Indian independence movement as well as the several strategies that were utilized in the pursuit of freedom and justice.

Impact and Legacy

An indelible impression has been left on the fields of politics, education, social change, and spirituality by the legacies of Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi, which continue to echo throughout India and the rest of the world. Despite the fact that they have passed away, the contributions that they made to Indian society will continue to thrive and serve as a source of motivation for future generations.

Madan Mohan Malaviya

The most enduring legacy that Malaviya has left behind is to be found in the field of education, specifically in the form of the foundation of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). BHU was established in 1916 with the goal of combining traditional Indian education with contemporary education. Since then, it has developed into a leading institution of higher education, providing students with access to a wide variety of academic fields and encouraging a spirit of intellectual inquiry and cultural enrichment (Sharma, R. S., 2005) ^[23].

Despite the fact that Malaviya has made significant contributions to the field of education, his advocacy for Hindu revivalism and cultural preservation continues to have an impact on discussions concerning Indian identity and history. His attempts to foster Hindu unity and solidarity created the framework for later groups that advocated for the safeguarding of Hindu culture and traditions in the face of modernization and globalization (Kudaisya, M., 2012) ^[24]. His efforts were essential in giving rise to these movements.

It is also important to highlight that Malaviya left behind a significant political legacy. He was instrumental in the formation of the Indian National Congress and in voicing the aspirations of the Indian people for self-rule and independence. His unwavering dedication to Indian nationalism and social change earned him the respect and admiration of politicians from across the political spectrum (Sen, 2014) ^[7]. Despite the fact that he allied himself with the moderate faction of the Congress, he nonetheless garnered this regard and respect.

Mahatma Gandhi

Through his ideology of peaceful resistance, Gandhi was able to inspire millions of Indians to join the fight for independence. As a result, Gandhi had a significant impact on both the society and politics of India. There were movements for civil rights and social justice all across the world, including the American Civil Rights Movement that was headed by Martin Luther King Jr. (Wolpert, S., 2006) ^[25]. His notion of Satyagraha, which translates to "truth force," was the inspiration for these campaigns.

The emphasis that Gandhi placed on self-sufficiency, simplicity, and village industries continues to reverberate in contemporary conversations on sustainable development

and economic empowerment. Through his advocacy of khadi, which is a type of hand-spun cloth, and his opposition to industrialization, he lay the framework for alternative types of economic growth that place an emphasis on social fairness and environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, in the light of the modern difficulties that are faced by religious extremism and sectarian bloodshed, Gandhi's appeal for communal harmony and religious tolerance continues to be important. According to (Andrews, C. F., 2012) ^[26], his vision of Sarvodaya, which has been translated as "welfare of all," exemplifies the spirit of inclusivity and compassion that is necessary for the development of a society that is both peaceful and pluralistic.

Comparison of Impact and Legacy

Both Malaviya and Gandhi had unique realms of influence and ways of participation; nonetheless, their legacies cross in the sense that they both had a dedication to social reform, nationalism, and the quest of truth and justice. Both of these leaders have left behind legacies that will last for generations to come, in addition to continuing to mold the outlines of Indian society and inspiring movements for social change and advancement.

Both Malaviya and Gandhi, in their own unique ways, demonstrated the qualities of selfless service, moral purity, and dedication to the upliftment of those who were underprivileged. The fact that they have made contributions to the fields of education, politics, and social transformation is evidence of the transformative power of individuals who are guided by the ideals of compassion, courage, and conviction.

According to (Markovits, 2019) ^[27], the influence and legacy of Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi extend beyond their own lifetimes, leaving behind legacies that continue to live on in the hearts and minds of people all over India and beyond. In their never-ending pursuit of a better world, their ideas of a society that is just and equitable, which are founded on the concepts of spirituality, nonviolence, and social justice, continue to serve as a source of inspiration for successive generations of activists, thinkers, and leaders.

Conclusion

It is clear that Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi, two towering figures of the Indian independence movement, left profound imprints on the course of history, shaping the destiny of a nation and inspiring countless individuals all over the world. This is evident when one examines the lives, ideologies, and legacies of these two individuals. The great devotion that Malaviya and Gandhi had to spirituality, social reform, and Indian nationalism was the source of their shared beliefs and objectives throughout their lives, despite the fact that their histories and approaches were very different from one another. Their commitment to the advancement of those who were marginalized, the promotion of nonviolence, and the search of truth and justice served as guiding ideals in their efforts to create a free and fair India. The achievements that Malaviya made to education, politics, and Hindu revivalism will continue to be remembered for generations to come. The most notable of these efforts is the founding of the Banaras Hindu University. Gandhi's influence, on the other hand, is felt well beyond the borders of India, and it has had

an effect on movements for civil rights, social justice, and nonviolent resistance all around the world. In spite of the fact that Malaviya's moderate politics and concentration on constitutional means were in stark contrast to Gandhi's radical tactics of civil disobedience and mass mobilization, both leaders made significant contributions to the fight for Indian independence, each in their own special way. Their legacy continues to serve as a source of motivation for successive generations of activists, academics, and leaders, exemplifying the everlasting principles of compassion, bravery, and dedication to the betterment of society. Both Malaviya and Gandhi left behind legacies that serve as beacons of hope and direction for India as it navigates the challenges of the 21st century. These legacies remind us of the transformational potential of individuals who have the courage to dream of a better world and work hard to make that dream a reality. We pay tribute to the unyielding spirit of resiliency, unity, and solidarity that defines the essence of the Indian nation and the unending pursuit of freedom, justice, and equality for all by way of commemorating their memories and carrying forth their legacies from generation to generation. We pray that as we contemplate the lives and legacies of Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi, we may find motivation in their exemplary lives and recommit ourselves to the virtuous principles that they worked so ardently and persistently to achieve.

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