

CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME

Prohibition

In Gandhi's scheme of constructive programme, prohibition was a vital social and moral reform. Gandhi attached much importance to this because the people in villages and cities would be incapable of moral effort which was necessary for Satyagraha unless they were free from the grip of intoxicants. He also felt that women and students had a special opportunity to advance this reform. By acts of loving service they could acquire on addicts a hold which would compel them to listen to the appeal to give up the evil habit. He suggested that Congress Committee could open recreation booths for tired labourers where they can rest, get healthy and cheap refreshments and also find suitable games. This was a novel and non-violent approach towards Swaraj. In his efforts to build nonviolent social order, Gandhi did not want to wait or depend on the Government. He directly dealt with the people and their problems and tried to arouse people's inner dormant strength and capacity through such programmes. He believed that constructive workers could make legal prohibition easy and successful. Gandhi felt so strongly about this addiction that he said if he was made a dictator for even sometime, he would first make a law for prohibition.

Village Industries

For Gandhi, Khadi is the sun of the village solar system and other village industries are the planets. Khadi takes the Central place in the upliftment of village economy. Without khadi, the other industries cannot grow. Similarly, without the revival of other essential industries khadi cannot make satisfactory progress. In order to make the villages self-reliant, the development of both the industries is essential as they are inter-dependent. Village economy remains incomplete without the revival and growth of other cottage industries such as hand-grinding, hand pounding, paper, soap etc. The development of such industries will make the villages self-sustained units and will end the exploitation of the villages by the cities.