

CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME

Village Sanitation

Village sanitation occupied a prominent place in Gandhi's constructive programme. He bestowed supreme priority on sanitation and cleanliness. He was deeply pained and disturbed by the unhygienic and polluting habits of the people. He felt people were ignorant of the elementary laws of cleanliness, spitting, throwing food, refuse and peelings, etc. all over. All these dirty habits spread the disease and foul the air. According to him, a sense of national and social sanitation is lacking in our people. He said, "we do not mind dirtying the well, the tank, or the river by which side we perform ablutions. I regard this defect as a great vice which is responsible for the disgraceful state of our villages..."

New or Basic Education

Gandhi was clear that the education of citizens is a backbone of any society. So he envisaged a new educational system for non-violent society of his dream and experimented it for many years. Basic Education should be connected with life and should lead to the development of mind, body and soul. It was Gandhi's unflinching faith that there are abundant power and potentiality in children. The nature and surroundings of society in which the children are born and brought up can itself be very educative for their life and development. They can learn many things by dealing with practical work and by direct experiences. Gandhi's concept implies that nature, society and crafts are huge mediums of education. According to him, "true education is that which draws out and stimulates the spiritual, intellectual and physical faculties of the children. This education ought to be for them, a Constructive Programme 111 112 Gandhi: The Man and His Times kind of insurance against unemployment". The Basic Education which was imparted through the medium of handicraft was specially designed to transform the village children into model villagers, which keeps them rooted to the soil and links to all that is best and lasting in India.