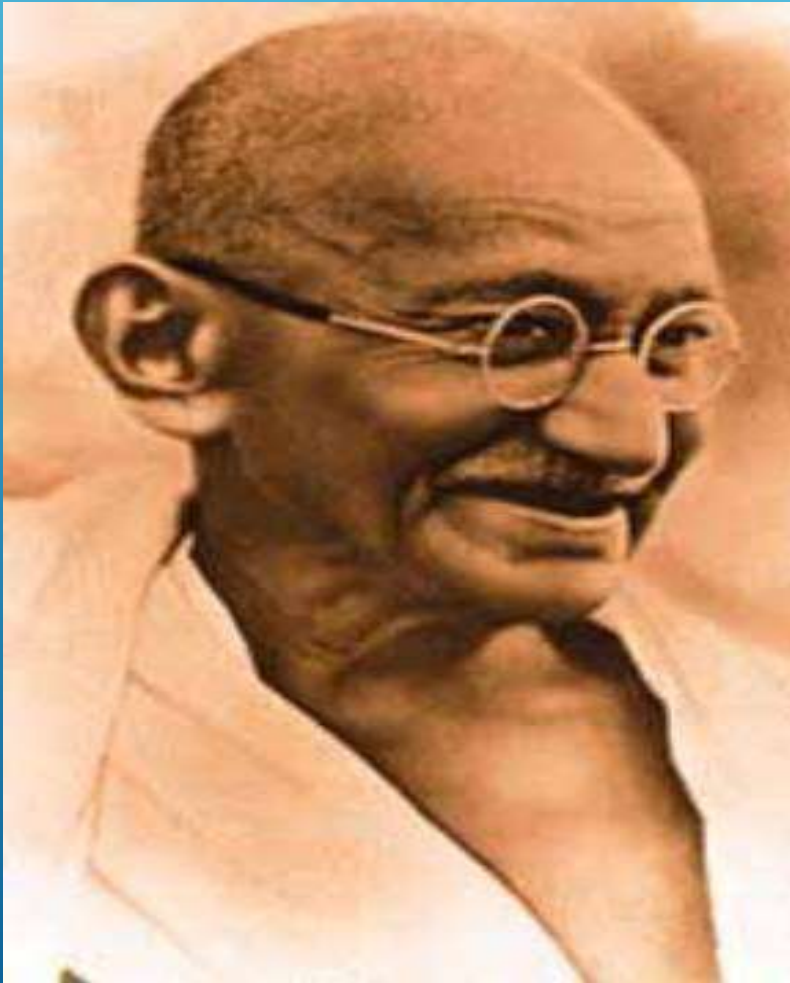


Gandhian Ethics



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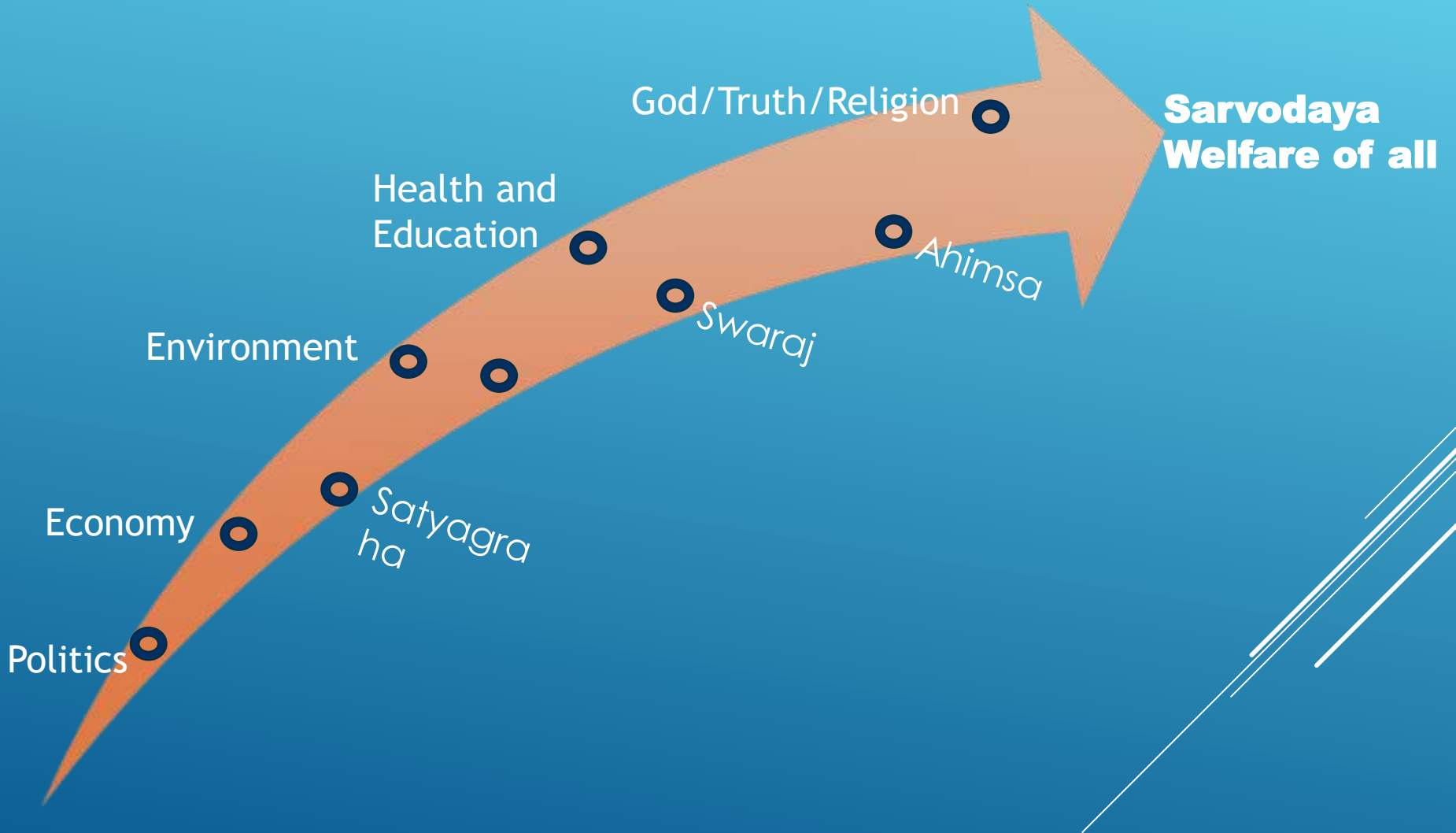
INTRODUCTION: GANDHIJI

1869-1948


- **Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an determined will.**
- **The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.**
- **Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.**
- **You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.**

- I. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is a body of inspiration for every one.**
- II. He is the most known contemporary philosopher.**
- III. One of the influencing social reformer.**
- IV. We can define Gandhian thought as Idealistic thought as well as practical.**
- V. Truth, Nonviolence, Sarvodaya, and satyagraha are regarded as the four pillars of his thought.**

Gandhian Philosophy touches vast areas of human life



God/Truth and Religion

- ❖ To Gandhi God is Truth and Love
 - ❖ The nearest approach to truth is through love
 - ❖ Gandhi endeavoured to see God through service of humanity, for he knew that God is neither in heaven, nor down below, but in every individuals.
 - ❖ He believe in the fundamental truth of all great religions of the world.
 - ❖ Truth is God and God is Truth.
 - ❖ There may be some non believers in God but no one can ever deny the truth (Atheist).
 - ❖ Religion and Morality are inseparable bound up with each other.
 - ❖ For Gandhi there is no religion higher than truth and righteousness.
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Truth and Non-violence:

They are the twin cardinal principles of Gandhi's thoughts.

- For Gandhiji, truth is the relative truth of truthfulness in word and deed, and the absolute truth - the ultimate reality. This ultimate truth is God (as God is also Truth) and morality - the moral laws and code - its basis.
- Nonviolence, for Gandhi to denote active love - the pole opposite of violence, in every sense.
- Truth is the end while Ahimsa is the means to attain it.
- His concept of non-violence is not a negative concept like non-injury or non-killing but a positive one which means love in the sense of selfless action.

Satyagraha:

Gandhiji called his overall method of nonviolent action Satyagraha. It means the exercise of the purest soul-force against all injustice, oppression and exploitation.

- It is a method of securing rights by personal suffering and not inflicting injury on others.
- It is the combination of two words i.e. Satya (Truth) and Agraha (Grasp).
- He uses Satyagraha to achieve two goals one is personal and social or political.


11 Principles of Satyagraha to

follow:

1. Nonviolence
2. Truth (includes honesty, but goes beyond it to mean living fully in accord with and in devotion to that which is true)
3. Non-stealing
4. Chastity (includes both sexual chastity & subordination of other sensual desires to the primary devotion to truth)
5. Non-possession (not the same as poverty)
6. Body-labor or bread-labor
7. Control of the palate
8. Fearlessness
9. Equal respect for all religions
10. Economic strategy such as boycotts
11. Freedom from untouchability

~ Gandhi, M.K. *Non-violent Resistance (Satyagraha)* (1961) p. 37

Gandhi identified 7 deadly social sins:

- ❑ Politics without principle;
 - ❑ Wealth without work;
 - ❑ Commerce without morality;
 - ❑ Pleasure without conscience;
 - ❑ Education without character;
 - ❑ Science without humanity;
 - ❑ Worship without sacrifice.
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Conclusion;

Gandhi's philosophical outlook is unique and touched every aspect of society. His concepts like Sarvodaya, Satyagraha, Swaraj, and many more are very unique and most appropriate for every individual being. So the significant of Gandhian thought cannot be denied at any period of time. For which reason, his thought is more socially relevant in day to day life.

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