

## **AN ANALYSIS ON THE INDIAN CIVIL DISOBEDIENT MOVEMENT**

Siddharth M

Kerala, India

### **ABSTRACT**

The Indian civil disobedience movement was the second mass movement organized by Mahatma Gandhi for the sake of Indian Nationalism. This movement was beginning from the salt satyagraha in 1930. This movement was organized in three different phases including the individual's "Satyagraha stage. The round table conferences and a Pact signed between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin affect the course of the movement. This is one of the most significant movements in India's freedom struggle.

**Keywords:** Indian civil disobedience movement, India's freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi, Indian Nationalism

### **AN ANALYSIS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL DISOBEDIENT MOVEMENT**

The civil disobedience movement set a milestone in the history of India's freedom struggle. Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, civil disobedience movement was launched in the year 1930 AD. This was one among the mass struggle lead by Mahatma Gandhi. And was one of the most important phases in the Indian National Movement. The main ideology behind the civil disobedience movement was to defy the laws made by British. The term civil disobedience was firstly coined by Henry David Thoreau in his 1848 essay to describe his refusal to pay the state poll tax implemented by the American government to prosecute a war. The Indian aim of this movement is complete swaraj that is complete independence from British rule, was assigned in the Lahore Session of Indian National Congress<sup>1</sup>

The Civil disobedience movement was more active than the non co-operation movement<sup>2</sup> and it brought about a revolution in all sorts. This movement aimed at bringing the British administration to a stop by with growing support from all section of society. The agitation was took place against increasing land revenues, newly imposing salt law, for cutting down the

<sup>1</sup> Indian National Congress was the first national organization of India which formed in the year of 1885.

<sup>2</sup> Non- Co operation movement was the first mass struggle organized by Mahatma Gandhi in the year of 1920.

military expenses etc. The highlight of the civil disobedience movement was the salt satyagraha in which Mahatma Gandhi undertook the Dandee March as a protest against the salt tax.

### **Lahore Session of Indian National Congress**

The decision for civil disobedience movement was adopted by Indian National Congress in its Lahore Session. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the president of Indian National Congress in its Lahore Session; whereas Mahatma Gandhi was proposed to lead the civil disobedience movement. The Indian National Congress called upon its members and followers to resign from their seats in the council and the assembly and authorized the All India Congress committee to launch a program of civil disobedient. Mahatma Gandhi was particularly keen on starting the movement not only because of the failure of the British to honor their assurance of granting more power to the Indians, but also because he was very much concerned with the growing climate of violence all around the country. Thus Mahatma Gandhi announced the campaign of civil disobedience to bring the foreign government in India to its knees. And in this time Mahatma Gandhi made it clear that, no matter what happens, he would not suspend or call off the movement as he did in the foreign occasion of Chauri Chaura incident in relation to the non - co operation movement. The Indian National Congress accepted his views and the working committee of Indian National Congress vested the absolute authority related to the movement in the able leadership of Mahatma Gandhi to choose the right time for the commencement of the movement and to decide the nature and design of the movement.

Mahatma Gandhi wrote a letter to the then Viceroy of British India, Lord Irwin on March 2, 1930. In this letter he narrated the evils of the British rule in India and he demanded to the Viceroy to remove the evilness in the administration. He also informed the Viceroy about his decision to launch the satyagraha campaign by making salt at Dandi, a village on the sea- coast of Gujarat State in case his demands was turned down by the Government. His demands were famous as the 'eleven points'<sup>3</sup>(Sharma 2010, 147). The demands were:-

- Prohibition of intoxicants.
- To change the ratio between the Indian Rupee and the Sterling.
- 50% Reduction in the rate of land revenue.
- Abolition of salt law.
- Reduce the expenditure of military affairs.
- Reduce the expenditure of civil administration.
- Impose custom duty on foreign clothes.

---

<sup>3</sup> Sharma LP, *Indian National Movement*.(Agra: LNA Publication, 2010).

- Accept the postal reservation bill.
- Abolish the C.I.D department or give its control to the citizens.
- Release all the political prisoners.
- Issue licenses of arms to citizens for self protection.

Lord Irwin did not pay any attention to these demands made by Mahatma Gandhi. Besides these Mahatma Gandhi sought an interview with Lord Irwin, but this was also refused by the Viceroy. He refused to see and meet Mahatma Gandhi. Thus Mahatma Gandhi warned him of the consequences of his impending action. And finally it led to the immediate beginning of the civil disobedience movement.

The program of the civil disobedience movement was pre - planned. The most important programs outlined for the civil disobedience movement were the following:

- The violation of the Salt law and the other laws.
- Non - payment of the land - revenue, rent or the other taxes.
- Boycott of the British law courts, the legislatures, elections, functions organized by the government, etc
- Boycott of the government schools and the hospitals owned by the government.
- Boycott of the foreign goods and cloths.
- Burning of public cloths publicly.
- Peaceful picketing of those shops which selling liquor and the other intoxicants.
- Organization of mass strikes and demonstrations
- Resigning from the government jobs and services.
- Not to join in the civil, military or the police services, if being recruited or not etc.

### **Beginning of movement and the Dandy March.**

The Civil disobedience movement was beginning with the Dandy March of Mahatma Gandhi. On the 12th day of March 1930, Mahatma Gandhi left the Sabarmati Ashram on foot. In this journey, he was accompanied by 78 inmates of the Sabarmati Ashram. Mahatma Gandhi started in his march of 240 miles to the sea - coast of Dandy and he decided to manufacture salt from sea water and thus violate the salt law and thus violate the monopoly of government in the salt making. Huge crowds gathered at the Ashram to see Gandhi. Gandhi hoped that he would not return to the Ashram until swaraj was born to India. His march assumed the Character of a

‘Padayathra’, which literally means a journey on foot, with object of achieving Purna Swaraj for India<sup>4</sup>

Prayers were offered from all part of India for the success of Mahatma Gandhi's mission for the violation of salt law. The progress of the march was watched by the people with great interest. He addressed numerous numbers of meetings and urged the people all over India to remain non - violent. Of the Satyagrahis accompanied Gandhi, who were drawn from all parts of India, two were Muslims, one Christian and the rest Hindus. Day after day, newspapers reported the progress of Gandhi's mission, about his speeches and the impact on the people. On April 5, Gandhi reached the Dandy Sea - coast and broke the salt laws on April 6, by picking up the salt lying on the beach. Thus it became an unforgettable movement in the history of India's freedom struggle.

### **Spread of the movement**

Gandhi made a call upon the people to celebrate the week from April 6 to April 13 as the national week and defy the salt laws and picket liquor shops, opium dens and foreign cloth - dealers shop etc. Gandhi also appealed the people to leave the government institutions such as government schools, colleges and from government services also. People respond with favorable manner. To spread this message, public meetings were conducted all over the country. Hundreds of government servants left their job in response to Mahatma Gandhi's call. Picketing of shops selling foreign goods, boycotting of such shops, distributing leaflets among the people for spreading the message, withholding the land revenue payments, saluting the Congress flag etc became common procedures. Many legislators resigned their seats and hundreds of people openly violated the salt law by manufacturing salt in the different parts of the country. A very notable feature of the civil disobedience movement was the active participation of women. They marched shoulder to shoulder along with men in this movement. Thousands of them left the seclusion of their home and offered themselves to Satyagraha. Gandhi also appealed the people to celebrate the week from April 6 to April 13 as the 'National week'. Besides that, special days like 'All - India Prisoners Day', 'The Peshawar Day' etc were observed during the period. Thus the country was again filled with hope and exhilaration and the determination to be independent.

The movement reached almost all part of the country. In the extreme north that is in the North Western Frontier Province it was organized under the banner of 'Khudai Khidmatagars' which means the Servants of Good, a society of Pathans organized under the leadership of Khan Abdul

---

<sup>4</sup> Mahajan, V.D. *Modern Indian History from 1707 to the Present day (British rule in India and after)* (New Delhi, S. Chand and Company Publication, 1993.)

Gaffer Khan. He was thus being nick named as the 'Frontier Gandhi'. And his society was also known as 'Red Shirts'. But on April 23, the arrest of the leaders of Indian National Congress led to a mass demonstration of unprecedented magnitude in the North Western Frontier Province, especially in Peshawar. Here two platoons of Garhwali soldiers refused to open fire on non-violent mass demonstrators even though it caused severe punishment to them. In Punjab, when civil disobedience movement assumed great heights. One special feature of the civil disobedience movement in Punjab was that the Muslims also actively took part in it. In different towns of Bihar, Assam, Central Provinces, Gujarat, and the United Provinces and in the different part of the country, the civil disobedience movement became wide spread like a wildfire. In Bombay, riots broke out. In Madras, police beating was indiscriminately high. In Karnataka a successful no-tax campaign launched. In Midnapur district of West Bengal, the Goorkha troops and punitive police started a reign of terror which did not spare even the honor of women.

On May 21, with Sarojini Naidu, the first Indian woman to become the president of Indian National Congress, and Imam Sahib, Gandhi's comrade of his South African struggle, at the helm, and Gandhi's son Manilal Gandhi, in front ranks, with a band of 2000 people marched towards the police cordon and sealed off the Darshana salt workers<sup>5</sup> When they come close police attack them. And it finally resulted in the unconditional lathi charge towards the unarmed people. Likewise in Darshana, the movement spread to other parts of India.

In the North-East region the state of Manipur, Assam etc actively participated in the movement. There the salt satyagrahis marched all the way from Sylhet in Assam to Naokhali on the Bengal coast for making salt. In the case of Manipur, the movement attained new heights under the leadership of Rani Gaidilieu, a young girl of 13 years who responded to the call of Mahatma Gandhi and Indian National Congress<sup>6</sup> In all parts of Bengal, the civil disobedience movement spread like wildfire and the government policy of human torture also knew no bounds. In Midnapore of Bengal, the Salt satyagrahis were set ablaze. Midnapore's contribution to the civil disobedience movement was greatest compared to that of any other single district in India, and naturally occupies a high position in the history of the Indian National Movement. Working class also participated as evidenced by strikes by Sholapur, an industrial town of Maharashtra. In Madras of South India, C. Rajagopalachary led the movement and traveled on foot from Trichnapalli to Vedarayamma to prepare salt on the Sea-coast. In Dharsana, the movement was led by Sarojini Naidu. In Payyanur of Kerala, K. Kelappan led the movement in same way. And violated salt law openly at the sea coast of Payyanur and was heavily charged by the police. And he, thus nick named as 'Kerala Gandhi'. Thus in this way the civil disobedience movement

---

<sup>5</sup> Chandra, Bipan. *India's Struggle for Independence 1885 – 1947*. (New Delhi: Penguin Books, 1989).

<sup>6</sup> Chandra, Bipan. *History of Modern India*. (New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2009). Print

became wide spreader throughout the country. In Andhra Pradesh satyagrahis marched from village to village for spreading the message of swaraj and they finally reached the coastal areas for manufacturing salt.

### **Official Response towards the civil disobedience movement.**

The government, as usual adopted some merciless repression towards the civil disobedience movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. The movement was planned to be non - violent in nature and except some rare incident the civil disobedience movement was adhered to complete nonviolence. Government thought that this movement will be termed as a problem towards their predominance in India. So that, they took necessary steps to curb the movement. Even before the movement was actually started, they put hundreds of Congress workers in prison. The great leader like Jawaharlal Nehru was arrested on April 16, 1930 following the arrest of thousands of people in the same day. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was sentenced to the one year's rigorous imprisonment. And by may 5, 1930 Mahatma Gandhi was arrested<sup>7</sup>. In the absences of Mahatma Gandhi, Abbas Tyabji became the Indian leader of the movement. Later he was arrested and the movement came under the leadership of Sarojini Naidu. In total, about 90000 of Congress workers were arrested. And Indian National Congress was declared as an illegal organization.

Demonstrations were organized against the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi. Riots were broke out in Bombay and Madras. In Bombay, a massive wave of protest was done in connection with Gandhi's arrest. Cloth - merchants were on a six - day hartal. There were clashes and firings in Calcutta and Delhi and in Sholapur. Government undertook severe lathi charges and firings pn unarmed crowds of men and women. It caused a lot of problems throughout the country. They try to crush the movement with ruthless repression. All the public meetings were banned. Besides that confiscation of land, cattle, properties and all the belongings of satyagrahis became another sort of punishment. Ill- treatment wards women and children were very common. Likewise imprisonment without trial, prohibition of meetings, censorship of press etc were other atrocities done by the British Indian government towards the followers of civil disobedience movement and of Congress workers. Manilal Gandhi, the son of Mahatma Gandhi came into forefront of the struggle in this stage.

The nationalist press was gagged by insisting very strict censorship of news. According to official records about more than 110 people lost their life and over 300 of people got wounded in the police firings. It is sure that the real calculations will be much higher than the official records. In South India the oppression was very severe. The police often beat up men just for

---

<sup>7</sup> Mahajan, V.D. *Modern Indian History from 1707 to the Present day (British rule in India and after)* (New Delhi, S. Chand and Company Publication, 1993, 414

wearing Khadi dress and Gandhi cap. After the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi, the movement soon became leaderless. There were so many leaders but the leadership was not much effective.

At the same time the Simon Commission report was submitted. The British government decided to summoned a first round table conference to deliberate and discuss the future constitutional reforms with the Indian leaders<sup>8</sup>In August 1930, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar attempted to bring about a compromise between the Indian National Congress and the British government but it became failed and fruitless because the British government made a demand which insisted on withdrawal of the civil disobedience movement first. Bu this time onwards the Simon Commission submitted its report. And as per the report, British government decided to call the first round table conference in London for discuss about the future constitution reforms for India. Indian national Congress insisted that, they will not participated in the round table conference, unless a compromise was done between Congress and government and they demanded the release of Mahatma Gandhi.

### **The First Round Table Conference**

First Round Table Conference was summoned from November 12, 1930 to January 1931. Indian National Congress refused to participate in it. Indian national Congress declined to participated in it, because most of its important leaders where in prison. And the people who are participated in the round table conference were not the elected representatives of Indian National Congress, but those nominated arbitrarily by the Government. In his opening address, the British prime minister Ramsay Mac Donald stated that the conference would discuss a federal constitution of India and about the provincial autonomy with some restrictions and partial responsibilities at the center. Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah insisted on the safeguards for the Muslims and Dr. B.R Ambedkar asked for separate electorates for the depressed classes. Thus, the British were able to expose the difference among the Indians before the international community. And, probably it was the primary aim in calling the first round table conference even when the Indian National Congress was not represented on it. And the first round table conference was a great failure.

### **Gandhi - Irwin Pact**

The Gandhi- Irwin pact was a political agreement signed by Mahatma Gandhi and the then viceroy of British India, Lord Irwin on March 5, 1931 before the commencement of the second round table conference. After the failure of the first round table conference, the British Indian government came to realized about the necessity for being friendly towards the Indian National Congress. Because by this time onwards, the government felt that there was no prospect of the successful working of any reforms unless the support of Congress is not with them. In this

---

<sup>8</sup> Sharma,B.R. India's March to Swaraj.New Delhi: Swarop and Sons Publcatons,2011 , 148

situation the British Prime Minister Ramsay Mac Donald declared that Mahatma Gandhi and all other leaders of Indian National Congress will released soon. In accordance with this statement, the Congress leaders include Mahatma Gandhi was released on January 26, 1931. In this situation, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. M.R Jayakar and V.S. Shastri etc were able to persuade Mahatma Gandhi to see the viceroy and discuss the possibility of a compromise. The discussions between the Viceroy and Mahatma Gandhi continued for about fifteen days and n 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1931 they signed the famous Gandhi – Irwin pact. And through this pact Indian National Congress suspended the civil disobedience movement.

Mahatma Gandhi met Lord Irwin on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 1931 and after the prolonged discussions, they came into an agreement. As per the terms of Gandhi – Irwin pact, the Indian National Congress agreed to withdraw the Civil disobedience movement and to participated in the second round table conference and the most important terms agreed by the British Indian Government.

- To withdraw all the orders and the pending petition.
- To release all the political prisoners except those who were guilty of violence.
- To restore the confiscated properties of the satyagrahis.
- The government agreed to permit the peaceful picketing of liquor, opium and foreign cloths shop.
- Abolition of the Salt law and the monopoly of Salt making etc.

On the other side the Indian National Congress also put forward their own terms. They are

- Indian National Congress will suspend the Civil disobedience movement.
- Congress will discontinue the boycott movement
- The representatives of Indian National Congress will participate in the Round Table Conference for drafting the constitution on the basis of (a) Federation, (b) Responsibility, and (c) Safeguards or reservations in the interest of India for such matters as like defense, external affairs of the country, problem and interest of national minorities and the financial credit of India as a nation.

Thus, the civil disobedience movement was withdrawn without achieving any fruitful gain. So many congress leaders like C. Rajagopalachary support Mahatma Gandhi's action where as the young leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Subash Chandra Bose not agreed to this. They state that "Mahatma Gandhi sold India to Great Britain" They were totally disagreed to the action of Mahatma Gandhi and it is clear that this Gandhi – Irwin pact was more favorable to the British Indian Government than the Indians and Indian National Congress. Thus, the annual session of Indian National Congress, which is held in Karachi from March 26 to 29, 1931 endorsed the Gandhi - Irwin pact. The Indian National Congress also authorized Mahatma Gandhi to represent



Indian National Congress At the second round table conference. As agreed in the pact, Gandhi decided to participate in the Second round Table Conference and he went to London for participate in it.

### **The Second Round Table Conference**

Mahatma Gandhi attended the Second Round Table Conference as the sole representative of Indian National Congress. Beside this, the organization had been allowed fifteen members as its representatives. It was the mistake from the part of Indian National Congress that to have sent just one representative as he was outnumbered by the others overwhelmingly and he could not put his points and demands in a hostile assembly.

At the time of the Second Round Table Conference, a government change was occurred n Great Britain. Conservative government headed by Ramsay Mc Donald assumed the power of Great Britain. And in the changing scenario, the Second Round Table conference was headed by the new Prime Minister. The Prime Minister Mac Donald appointed new committees. The first committee is on the Federal structure of the administration and the second committee is on the issues of minorities. Mahatma Gandhi was shocked to find that the federal structure was hedged in with so many safeguards and restrictions which could only have the objective of perpetuating the British rule in India. In regard to the minorities, the discussions were endless. The delegates who styled themselves as the representatives of the minorities did efficiently the work that they had been directed to do and made it impossible to evolve a working formula accepting to all. And it was quite evident that the Divide and Rule policy of Great Britain in India. Britain adopted this policy to curb the Indian Nationalism. Mac Donald stepped forward as the champion of minority interests and announced his infamous Communal Award which is otherwise known as the Mac Donald Award then which no more diabolical scheme could have been invented to widen and perpetuate the cleavage between the different communities. The main points of discussion of this session of the conference were the federal form of government. Mahatma Gandhi also demanded for the immediate establishment of the responsible government both in centre and in the Provinces.

Mahatma Gandhi made three claims in the Second Round Table Conference. They are

- Indian national Congress Should be the only representative of Political India.
- The Untouchables were Hindus and they should not be named as a “minority” group
- Separate electorates or special safeguards should not be there for Muslims or minority communities

However, the other delegates did not agree to these claims. And such dissension between different groups was the main reason for the failure of this conference. About the last claim, he clashed with the Muslim representation. And about the claim about the untouchables, their leader Dr. B.R Ambedkar thoroughly opposed Mahatma Gandhi

The communal problems raised in the second round table conference created some problems. There was an unending discussion occurred on the communal tension, punctuated by some unruly scenes. Dr. B. R Ambedkar, who is considered as the leader of untouchables or the depressed classes in India demanded a separated electorates for the depressed classes in India. But Mahatma Gandhi openly and clearly opposed the grant of the separate electorates to the 'so called untouchables' in India on the ground that they could not classified as a separate class in the society. Mahatma Gandhi argued so, because he thought that if special considerations were allowed to the 'so called untouchables', it would resulted in the exclusion of those people from the main scenario of Indian society, politics and the public life. Gandhi also thought that this exclusion finally paved the way for the formation of a wide gap between the 'so called untouchables' or the depressed classes in India and it would further intensified the divide and rule policy of Great Britain, which they already considered as a weapon for destroy the Indian Nationalism and thus it would finally termed as a great hindrance for unity of India and Indians as a nation. But Mahatma Gandhi's demands and view points are not supported by the leader of depressed classes that is Dr. B.R Ambedkar. Thus ultimately, the second round table conference broke down and since no agreed any solution could be formed to the communal issue.

Consequently, there were no substantial changes in the constitution. And Mahatma Gandhi returned to Indian towards the end of 1933 and he was utterly disillusioned. When returned to India, the civil unrest had spread throughout again, and Gandhi was arrested with a few other Congress leaders. Sind was created as a separate province, and the interests of minorities were safeguarded by the McDonald's Communal Award for the minority.

Thus the conference ended with Ramsay McDonald announcing the formation of two new Muslim majority provinces in India styled as the North Western Frontier Province and the Sind and the setting up of an Indian consultative committee and three expert committee on franchise, finance and state and holding out the prospect of the bloody communal award.

When Mahatma Gandhi came back to India after the Second Round Table conference on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1931, he found the condition of the country was very tense. The government followed a very tensed and the rigorous attitude towards the Indians. The Khan Brothers were in Jail and there had been firing and Lathi Charges even upon the peaceful demonstrations. In Bengal, the terrorist problem was very high. In all these provinces, the anti – people repressive ordnances were proclaimed which causes serious impacts. Thus the congress decided to the resumption of

the Civil disobedience movement. In this particular Situation, Mahatma Gandhi decided to sought an interview with the Viceroy Lord Irwin on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1931. But this very demand of Mahatma Gandhi was rejected. Soon after, on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1932, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested and a number of ordinances were evoked to suppress the movement<sup>9</sup>

The Civil liberties of the people were cut down. The people responded to the situation with great anger and it increases the number of imprisonment very high. Indian National Congress was again declared as illegal. In the jails also the prisoners beaten inhumanly. Thus in such a situation the Indian National Congress has no other option but to launch another Civil disobedience movement which was the second phase of the movement dated in 1932 up to 1934.

At the same time Lord Willington had succeeded Irwin as the viceroy of British India and he flouted many of the important provisions of the already signed Gandhi - Irwin pact. Again Indian National Congress and other equal political parties were declared as illegal once more. And the government also arrested so many important leaders of the Indian National Congress, which including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Khan Abdul Gaffer Khan, the leader of Khudai Kidhmatgars who was the most important leader of the North Western Frontier Province. It was just a beginning. Later about ninety thousands (90000) men including men, women and children were arrested for participated in the movement. Thus the movement was gaining more and more strength when it was side tracked or marginalized with the then British prime minister Ramsay McDonald about his ever infamous communal award which is also known as the McDonald of his infamous communal award which is also known as the McDonald award.

No rapid declaration of the launching of the civil disobedience movement was made then because by this time most of the leaders were imprisoned including Gandhi before the commencement of the movement. The funds and the Offices of Indian National Congress were sealed. By the mean time the Communal Award was declared by Ramsay Mac Donald. This was agreed through the Poona Pact signed by Dr. B.R Ambedkar. BY this pact Muslims, Christians, Backward Hindus, Sikhs Anglo Indians etc were granted separate electorate, they were permitted to elect their own representatives to the legislatures. This is an open execution of Divide and Rule policy of British Government in India. Mahatma Gandhi began to fasting unto death in protest of this dreadful communal Award. Mahatma Gandhi was against the move of the British rule to carve as the separate electorate for the Dalits that is the oppressed classes. And order to vocalize his viewpoint he went to an indefinite hunger strike from 20<sup>th</sup> September 1932. A general upsurge was generated by the supporters to save the life of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R Ambedkar who was in favor of this was compelled to soften his stand on this issue. And a

---

<sup>9</sup> Pratap, Rama Chandra. *Raj to Swaraj*. (New Delhi: Macmillian India Ltd, 2008.)

serious of talks and negotiations resulted between the castes Hindus and the so called untouchables and it resulted in the POONA PACT on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1932. And on the very next day on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1932 the resolution were announced in a public meeting held in Bombay confirming that the no more Hindu shall be regarded as Untouchable.

The Civil Disobedience Movement went on even after the Poona Pact. But the Poona Pact and the fasting of Gandhi distracted the attention of the people from the movement. By the meantime, the third Round Table Conference was held from November 17 to December 24, 1932. Indian National Congress boycotted it. Thus, the conference remained a conference of the loyalists of British government in India.

The congressmen however, continued the movement under the increasing British repression. The special session of Indian National Congress was held in Delhi on April 1932 and another special session was held in Calcutta on March 1933 while the official ban on Indian National Congress was still in force. Mahatma Gandhi was released from imprisonment in May 1938 and immediately after his release, Mahatma Gandhi recommended to the president of Indian National Congress about the suspension of the movement for a month or six weeks. Accordingly the movement was suspended for about twelve weeks.

By August 1933, Mahatma Gandhi advised his people to suspend the mass civil disobedience movement and to observe it as individual's civil disobedience movement. For this, the every individual should observe the policy of civil disobedience, without being a part of any organization's banner. After a brief, listless progress, this movement, too, died down, For about eight months the movement moves on like this. In January 1934, the great earthquake took place in Bihar drew everybody's attention away from the political movements. In October 1934, Mahatma Gandhi himself decided to withdraw from the active politics to devote all his time to the cause of the depressed class. Later it was completely vanished.

The second phase of the civil disobedience movement also causes so many atrocities. It resulted in the imprisonment of about one lakh twenty thousand satyagrahis. The sudden call off of this movement in the second stage by Mahatma Gandhi created a feeling all over India that all the sacrifices of the satyagrahis had gone vain and open resentment was generated throughout the country against the action of Mahatma Gandhi.

### **Role of Mahatma Gandhi in the civil disobedience movement**

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of Indian Nation is the torch bearer of India's freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi launched three important mass movements in India's freedom struggle. These three were the three different techniques of Non- Co operation movement, civil disobedience movement and the Quit India Movement. The time period in Indian history from 1915 to 1947 is

styled as the Gandhian Era in the history of India. The non violent and peaceful method of Mahatma Gandhi was the foundation for Indian freedom movement.

Mohan Das Karam chand Gandhi was born in a Baniya family at Porbandar located in Gujarat. He went to South Africa and worked as barrister there for some years. Gandhi step down into social and political field there against Apartheid Later he went back to his mother land and gradually became the most influential leader of Indian National movement.

Gandhi has his own techniques and methods for leading India's freedom struggle. It was only after his introduction in the freedom struggle, the activities of Indian National Movement became mass movements. Indians irrespective of caste, region, religion and gender actively participated in Indian freedom struggle only after the the entrance of Mahatma Gandhi in India's freedom struggle. Civil disobedience movement was one of the most important techniques used by Mahatma Gandhi on the way to achieve India's freedom. Thus the year 1930 became a land mark in India's freedom struggle as well as the personal life of Mahatma Gandhi.

Satyagraha was the weapon of Mahatma Gandhi in the civil disobedience movement. In the beginning, the Dandy March lead by Mahatma Gandhi was able to attain the full attraction of the whole country. In order to violate the unfair salt law Gandhi made up his mind to make preparations for the historic march with a group of devoted workers. They march on foot to Dandy beach for manufacturing salt. On the way to Dandy, Mahatma Gandhi and his associates were warmly received at numerous places during this long march. He explained that the abolition of the salt tax or remission of some other taxes would not mean as the attainment of Swaraj for India. He said to the people that Winning of Swaraj was not an easy task. He taught his people that, Indians were bound by the chains of slavery, we are being crushed at present and we want to shake them off. He wished all government servants to give up their jobs and asked them to serve their nation only as volunteers of the besides being servant of the British imperialist. His message was warmly accepted by the majority of Indians with great pleasure and spirit.

In a message to the nation he delivered through his news paper 'Young India' dated ob 3rd April, 1930. He advised the people to observe the non violence in the finest sense of the term. They reached Dandy on April 5th and Sarojini Naidu had already arrived there to welcome them. And all of them together break the salt law by manufacturing their own salt from the sea water. Now Mahatma Gandhi advised the people to make salt freely in every home, as our ancestors used to and sells it from place to place, and should continue doing so wherever possible till salt in government stock would become super useless.

Undoubtedly we can says that the Dandy March under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi had became a sort of nightmare for the British Indian government machinery and it was no less

effective on the viceroy's mind who was deeply in touch with the Governor General. Infact in a few days, the viceroy began to consider, Gandhi and co - being too much troublesome.

The arrest of Mahatma Gandhi infuriated the Indians. Lakh of people actively participated in the civil disobedience movement as per the call of Mahatma Gandhi. They boycotted foreign goods and they resigned from their government services for the sake of their country and they had firm belief in the leadership of their leader Mahatma Gandhi. He was able to socialize the people in accordance with the sense of nationalism. He signed in the Gandhi - Irwin pact and in the second round table conference for the sake of nation itself. His message and way was really simple. He always considered non violence, truth and simplicity as his weapons. And his message was warmly and easily accepted by the masses. He was able to unite such a big nation like India for the causes of nationalism. When he feel that the decision was wrong, he restart the movement. Then also a person was with him. That much people considered Mahatma Gandhi as their leader. In the case of individual satyagraha also people believed in Mahatma Gandhi's words and they actively participated in it. Even though the movement was an utter failure, the movement hailed the dignity of Mahatma Gandhi as the real leader of Indian nationalism.

## **CONCLUSION**

Modern Indian Nationalism had its birth in the days following the outbreak of the great revolt of 1857. By this incident the preview of Indian nationalism was changed and it turns completely against the British imperialism and thus it became a milestone in the history of the freedom struggle of India. From 1857 onwards, so many liberation movements took place in the different part of India and in the year 1885 the formation of Indian National Congress added strength to these movements. But, it is sure that the Indian nationalism became more mass movement only after the advent of Mahatma Gandhi. The Civil disobedience movement was the second important mass movement organized by Mahatma Gandhi, after the Non Cooperation movement of 1920.

This movement is so special, as for as the history of India's freedom struggle is considered. Because it play a very significant role in consolidating the Indians together. And besides that the role of Mahatma Gandhi also specially signified. Even though it is a failure, its significance in Indian history is still relevant.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

1. Bandyopadhyay, Sekhar. *From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India*. New Delhi: Orient Longman Private Limited, 2004.
2. Bhalerao, Nirmal.,and S S M Desai.*Economic History of India*. Bombay: Himalaya Publishing House,1996.

3. Chandra,Bipan. *History of Modern India*.New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2009. Print
4. Chandra, Bipan. *India's Struggle for Independence 1885 – 1947*. New Delhi: Penguin Books,1989.
5. Habib,Irfan. *Medieval India – A study of Civilisation*. New Delhi: National Book Trust, 2008.
6. Khurana, K L. *History of India (1526 -1967 A.D)*.Agra: LNA Publication.
7. Mahajan, V.D. *Modern Indian History from 1707 to the Present day (British rule in Indiaand after)* New Delhi, S. Chand and Company Publication, 1993.
8. Mathew,Jijo. *A Text book on Modern India*. Thiruvananthapuram: Unicorn Publication, 2015.
9. Pratap, Rama Chandra. *Raj to Swaraj*. New Delhi: Macmillian India Ltd, 2008.
10. Reddy,K Krishna. *Indian History*. New Delhi: Mc Graw Hill Educational (India) Pvt.itd.
11. Sarkar,Sumit,*Modern India, 1885-1947*.Macmillan Publication,1983.
12. Sharma,B.R. *India's March to Swaraj*.New Delhi: Swarop and Sons Publcations,2011.
13. Sen,S.N. *History of Modern India*. New Delhi: New Age International Private Limited, 1997.
14. Sharma LP, *Indian National Movement*.Agra: LNA Publication, 2010.