

Gandhian Philosophy of Cleanliness

Introduction:

- The Gandhian philosophy of cleanliness is based on **Mahatma Gandhi's belief** that "*Cleanliness is next to Godliness.*"
 - Gandhi considered cleanliness as not only a physical necessity but also a **moral and spiritual duty**.
 - He believed that true cleanliness involves **clean body, clean mind, and clean surroundings**.
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- **1. Cleanliness as a Moral Duty:**

- Gandhi believed that cleanliness is the **personal responsibility of every individual**.
 - He emphasized that one should not depend on others or the government for cleanliness.
 - Every person should contribute to keeping their home, workplace, and community clean.
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- **2. External and Internal Cleanliness:**

- Gandhi spoke about two kinds of cleanliness —
 - **External cleanliness:** Maintaining hygiene of the body, home, and surroundings.
 - **Internal cleanliness:** Purity of thoughts, words, and actions.
 - He believed that without inner purity, outer cleanliness has no true meaning.
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- **3. Dignity of Labour:**

- Gandhi believed that **no work is low or inferior**.
 - He himself participated in cleaning activities and inspired others to do so.
 - He wanted to remove the social stigma attached to sanitation work and promote **equality and self-respect**.
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- **4. Cleanliness and Health:**

- Gandhi linked cleanliness directly with **good health and hygiene**.
- He said that a clean environment prevents diseases and keeps people physically and mentally strong.
- According to him, cleanliness leads to **a healthy body and a healthy nation**.

- **5. Collective Responsibility:**

- Gandhi believed that **cleanliness is a social responsibility** and requires cooperation from everyone.
- Villages and cities can remain clean only when all citizens actively participate.
- He urged communities to come together for sanitation drives and cleanliness campaigns.

- **6. Cleanliness and National Development:**

- Gandhi said that **cleanliness reflects the character of a nation**.
- A clean India, according to him, would be a symbol of discipline, self-respect, and progress.
- He believed that a clean environment contributes to **national growth and prosperity**.

- **7. Influence on Modern India:**

- Gandhi's vision continues to inspire the **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission)** launched in 2014.
- This movement aims to make India clean and fulfill Gandhi's dream of a healthy and hygienic nation.

- **Conclusion:**

- The Gandhian philosophy of cleanliness goes beyond sanitation — it is a **way of life**.
- It combines **physical hygiene, moral purity, self-discipline, and social responsibility**.
- Gandhi taught that cleanliness leads to **self-respect, good health, and a better society**.
- His message reminds us that **a clean individual makes a clean nation**.