CHAPTER-8

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ANDHRA ASHRAMS

Many Ashrams had been established after establishment of Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad. Sabarmati Ashram became a National level training centre for recruiting and developing Satyagrahis for the purpose of freedom struggle in a Nonviolent way. Ashram's had been established throughout the country. The people of Andhra Pradesh were also inspired by Gandhiji's non-violent methods and plunged into freedom movement by giving their studies, profession and also families.

Almost all the founders of Andhra Ashrams were educated and Professionally well known persons. They didn't think for their families. All the founders of these Ashrams were imprisoned in prisons at various places for the cause of implementing Gandhian ideals and ideas. Through out the state, the Gandhian ideals and ideas i.e Prohibition, Propagation of Khadi and Other Village Industries, Picketing before the foreign shops, Salt Satyagraha, Individual Satyagraha, Civil Disobedience etc., Constructive Programme were implemented. They fired the National Spirit among the Youth and Professionals.

Most of the Andhra Ashrams implemented the programmes like Removal of Untouchability, Prohibition, Khadi, Other Village industries, Medical Services, Women Welfare etc., These Andhra Ashrams successfully implemented Gandhiji's Constructive Programme without any hurdles. Whenever the person was arrested and imprisoned, the other person looked after the programme even at the times of financial criseses. Some Ashrams worked for the welfare of women, widows and destitutes.

Those Ashrams were keeping their Prominence in the modern days also by implementing various Social Welfare, Educational Programmes which are very useful to women. Every Ashram worked as power centre to recruit the selfless people as peace Satyagrahees to work for the Nonviolent movement. All the Ashrams implemented the Gandhian Constructive Programme which were started in Sabarmati Ashram. The movements like Individual Satyagraha, Salt Satyagraha etc., organised by the Andhra Ashrams on the same day as and when the Programmes organised in Sabarmati.
Gandhi, himself inaugurated some of these Ashrams and visited all the Ashrams or institutions in Andhra. He, personally noticed the dedication of the organisers and programmes conducted by them through these Ashrams. Gandhiji also wrote his comments in his publications i.e. Young India and Harijan. All the Andhra Ashrams strictly followed the timetable, which was observed in Sabarmati Ashrams. Almost all the founders of the Andhra Ashrams adhered to the Constructive Programme and Ashram observances from Sabarmati and Sevagram Ashrams. All of them got trained there, to run the Ashrams in Non-Violent Gandhian method. They showed the path to selfsufficiency to the rural poor by establishing cottage and village industries through which they were able to stand on their own legs. This led to their economic independence.

Every Andhra Ashram worked for the propagation of Hindi and started a National School for this purpose. Due to such propagation, State level Hindi Prachara Sabhas formed in the state and encouraged the youth of the Modern days.

Every Andhra Ashram was established in a spacious area including land for cultivation which helps the inmates for the activity of Sareera Srama (Physical labour). All the Ashrams conducted the all religious prayers which helps to promote religious brotherhood.

We can know the working of an institution only when we compare it to its counter parts. Values are not absolute, they are relative. The succeeding items are intended to make a comparative study of Andhra Gandhian Ashrams. This is just for study and not for belittling the Ashrams.

1. TRAINING PROGRAMMES
2. TRANSPARENT SINCERITY
3. NON-VIOLENT ACTIVITIES.
4. ERADICATION OF UNTOUCHABILITY ACTIVITIES
5. KHADI
6. PROHIBITION
7. VILLAGE SANITATION
8. OTHER VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

9. WOMEN UPLIFTEMENT

TRAINING PROGRAMMES:

Pinakini Satyagrahashram had given a Non-violent training under the leadership of Sri Digumarthi Hanumantha Rao. Some times, somebody played some role for following and implementing revolutionary methods. But they changed their activities and followed Sri Digumarthi Hanumantha Rao, in Non-violent methods. After his death, his wife Smt. Digumarthi Buchi krishnamma trained the Ashramites in Non-violent methods. They strictly followed the Non-violent methods to the end of their lives.

Sri Sarada Nikethan, had given Non-violent training to the inmates of the institute by sri Unnava Lakshminarayana and his wife Smt. Unnava Lakshmibaimma. Sri Lakshminarayana followed Non-violent methods of Satyagraha to stop the British harrashments towards Adavi Pullari Movement.

Gowthami Satyagrahashram, had given Non-violent training to the inmates and surrounding villages. They conducted a Shanti Sena Training camp successfully. They never became aggressive even when they were cruelly batoned by the callous police officer Musthafalikhan. Many of the inmates were severely injured in that attack. But even under those pressing conditions, they didn't give way to anger, revenge and violence.

Vinayashram, also trained many people of the neighbourhood villages. many of the trainers following the way of Non-violent Gandhian methods.

TRANSPERANT SINCERITY:

Sri Digumarthi HanumanthaRao, the founder of Pinkini Satyagrahashram strictly followed the honest way of spending donations and maintaining the Ashram. Gandhiji observed this discipline and wrote his comments in Young India. Gandhiji also sent Maganlal Gandhi to this Ashram to get him self trained under the aegis of Sri Digumarthi Hanumantha Rao.

Sri Unnava Lakshminarayana, the founder of Sri Sarada Nikethan was transparent in all his
dealings. He and his batch were appreciated by the National Leaders for their way of spending money and conducting various women's upliftment programmes.

Dr. Brahmagosyula Subrahmanyam, the founder of Gowthami satyagrahashram followed the way of simplicity, accountability which he learned from Gandhiji and in his Ashram (Sabarmati). The way of spending money for running the Ashram activities, publishing paper without having chairs by sitting on the mats etc. All these activities were appreciated by Gandhiji and also wrote his comments in Young India.

Sri Gollapudi Sitaramaswamy, Sri Thummala Basavayya and his wife Smt. Durgamba, the founders of Vinayashram also followed the transparency method of spending money and conducted activities in the Ashram, learned from Gandhiji and Sabarmati Ashram. They showed their expenditure statements to Gandhiji and Mahadev Desaiji at the time of their visits to this Vinayashram. Gandhiji was very much satisfied with the way of spending money and also wrote his comments.

**HARIJAN UPLIFTMENT**

Sri Digumarthi Hanumantha Rao, Sri C.V.Krishnayya and other inmates of the Pinakini Satyagrahashram worked hard for the upliftment of harijans. They worked for the entry of Harijans in Pallepadu village, the village which was did not allow the entry of Harijans on their roads also. They conducted various Constructive Programme in the District. The Ashramites also established hostels to provide accommodation for the education of Harijan children. Besides this, they adopted and brought up some Harijan children in the Ashram.

Sri Unnava Lakshminarayana and his batch of Sri Sarada Nikethan worked for the Upliftment of Harijans. They admitted many Harijan girls into their institution and brought them up and educated them. Gandhiji insisted on adopting and educating Harijan girls. He himself did it and many of his apostles following suit. Sri Unnava Lakshminarayana is one among them. They fought for the Eradication of Untouchability in Gandhian way of Satyagraha method.

Dr. Brahmagosyula Subrahmanyam and his batch also worked for the Upliftment of Harijans. Then Harijans were not allowed to draw water from the village wells. Many of the Gandhians fought hard against this social evil. At last they were let to draw water from the wells. They also
worked for the entry of Harijans into the temples. They developed a boy sent by Gandhiji, later he was the compounder of the Ashram's Medical centre. They also established Harijan Ashram with the donation of Smt. Chirravooru China Venkamma and worked for their upliftment.

Sri Gollapalli Sitaramaswamy and his batch also worked for the upliftment of Harijans. They conducted many activities for the Eradication of Untouchability in the neighbouring villages and in the district. They worked for fetching of water from village wells and entry into temples for Harijans. The Ashramites carried medicines etc. along with them regularly to the Harijan wadas to serve the people in those areas. They also did a tremendous work i.e., bringing Harijans to the Ashram and conducted head baths, then they gave alms to them.

KHADI:

The Pinakini Satyagrahashram followed the propagation of Khadi in the District and established a Khadi spinning centre in the Ashram. They worked for the establishment of spinning centres at various places in the District.

Sri Sarada Nikethan followed the propagation of Khadi in the institute. The inmates of the institute spun Khadi and also propagated the Khadi activities in the District.

Gowthami Satyagrahashram followed the propagation of Khadi in the Ashram and at various places of the districts. The Ashram won medal in National Level Exhibition held in those days. The centre of Pithapuram under this Ashram got this reputation. The production of Khadi was peacefully done up to the brutal attack of the British Police on the Ashram.

Vinayasharam also followed the propagation of Khadi activities in the District and in the Ashram. The Ashramites of the Ashram spun a fine quality of Khadi and exhibited at the time of the visit of Gandhiji, Mahadev Desaiji and others to this Ashram.

PROHIBITION:

All the four Ashrams, worked for the propagation of prohibition in the surrounding villages and in the District. Due to this efforts, many of the villagers stopped taking of liquor, forks and beaf.
They conducted huge agitations in a Non-violent method infront of liquor shops and severely punished by the British Police. Some times they were also punished with penalty.

VILLAGE SANITATION :

All the four Ashrams, worked for the village sanitation. They went to neighbouring villages, they propagated for the necessity of protection of environment by doing Sanitation work in those areas. At the times of natural calamities, they worked vigorously for the rehabilitation work.

OTHER VILLAGE INDUSTRIES :

Pinakini Satyagrahashram played an important role for giving various training programmes for the downtrodden and village people. They conducted various training Programmes, which helped to establish cottage industries.

Now, the present organisers establishing various training programmes for the upliftment of women and downtrodden.

Sri Sarada Nikethan worked for the upliftment of women by providing education from Nursery to Post Graduation along with vocational trainings for establishing their own cottage industry for self sufficiency. Now also they are conducting training Programmes to the Women upliftment.

Gowthami Satyagrahashram played a vital role for the establishment of cottage industries by giving regular training in those courses. Now also they are giving various training programmes for the upliftment of women with the financial assistance from Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust and also from Central women welfare Department. They have been conducting those helpful and useful training programmes since eight decades with out any obstacles.

Vinayashram also conducted various training programmes for the establishment of village industries. They conducted Programmes in the Ashram and their yeoman service was lauded by Gandhiji and his secretary Mahadev Desai.

WOMEN UPLIFTMENT :

Pinakini Satyagrahashram founders implemented various programmes for the upliftment of
women. Smt Ponaka Kanakamma established "Kasturi Devi Vidyalaya" for women education. Smt Buchi Krishnamma, the then Andhra Pradesh state Branch Representative for Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust played a pivotal role for the upliftment of women.

Sri Sarada Nikethan mainly established for the purpose of women upliftment. widows, destitutes and helpless women were protected here and developed them by providing Hostels, facility for their education and giving various vocational training programmes for women upliftment.

Gowthami Satyagrahashram conducted various training programmes in the pre-independence period. Now also, they are conducting various vocational training programmes without any hurdles with the financial help of the state and central governments.

Vinayashram also organised various training programmes which are helpful for the upliftment of downtrodden.