



**ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY,
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM**



NSS CELL

**A Webinar on
The Relevance of Gandhism in Today's Youth**

Convener

Dr B Kezia Rani

NSS Coordinator

Chief Guest

Prof M Jagganadha Rao, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, ANUR

Resource Person

Dr ABSV Ranga Rao, Andhra University

Introduction

Gandhism is one of the major forces that continues to shape the world and the nation. Gandhism is often considered a simplistic concept however when we fully understand the ideals on which the Gandhian Philosophy is based, the complexity and the profoundness of Mahatma's ideals surface.

Gandhism and its influence on many fields of thought is immeasurable. The key component of Gandhianism is non-violence of Gandhiji which was the great weapon used by him during the freedom movement of India against British Raj. Normally, people say that non-violence is the weapon of weak but in reality non-violence and tolerance require a great level of courage and patience. In world that is moving through the phases of war marred by violence and dance of death of common people due to the menace of terrorism there is a significant requirement of Gandhian idea of Non- violence more and more today than the past days.

The secular ideologies of Gandhiji are not only there in Indian constitution but also there in Indian society as a core value system. That is why so many people of diverse religions coexist in India. Gandhianism was tolerant towards all religions and the world today needs more and more religiously and faith wise tolerant people in societies where violence is committed in the name of religion. Tolerance in the society will help in neutralizing the ethnocentric bias in the globe that is taking place day by day on the basis of religion, caste, ethnicity and region etc.

On ethical and behavioural part Gandhianism has much significance today because society is witnessing the degradation of values. Gandhian virtues of self-control is much needed in a materialistic world driven by the desire to achieve and acquire more. Societal values have degraded to such an extent that people don't hesitate to kill someone for the gratification of their own needs. Respect for women is one of the major ideas of Gandhian philosophy and the world is witnessing the increased level of violence, subjugation women face nowadays in society. Gandhian dream of a safe country necessitates safety for women and that will come from the virtue of self-control. Adding more to this list of moral qualities of Gandhiji are punctuality, duty boundness and honesty etc and all these have to be the essence of administration for good governance and perfect service delivery to the last person standing in the queue as proposed by the philosophy of Gandhiji.

Gandhiji and Gandhianism are always more than what we know. Gandhiji's political contributions offered us Independence but his ideologies enlighten India as well as the world even today after so many years. Perhaps this was known to Nobel prize winner Rabindranath Tagore in those days and he had rightly called Gandhiji as Mahatma. Every individual, thus, should follow the key Gandhian ideologies in their day to day life for a happy, prosperous, healthy, harmonious and sustainable future.

Objectives of the Program

The Event today intends to:

- Understand the significance of Gandhism with special focus on moral values and ethics.
- Understand the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in orienting the nation's youth during the Nationalist Movement.
- Comprehend and follow the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and
- Recognize the timelessness of Gandhian Philosophy and its growing relevance in the present times.

Organizers

About NSS Cell of Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamahendravaram

Adikavi Nannaya University was established in the year 2006 to meet the Higher Education needs of East & West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The University consists of four colleges in main campus namely - University College of Arts & Commerce, University College of Engineering, University College of Education and University College of Science & Technology catering to the needs of students on campus.

The University also has extension campuses at Kakinada and Tadepalligudem. The University stands tall being the largest in the state of Andhra Pradesh, affiliating 444 colleges. A brief introduction about the University will be given by the Convener.

University's NSS Cell comprises of 290 Units with over 29000 volunteers who are involved in various service activities to the society. The volunteers, during the pandemic, are rendering their services to the affected sectors of the society.

Since the lockdown, NSS Cell has organized many webinars on various contemporary topics for the benefit of NSS Volunteers and Affiliated Colleges. On the academic front, NSS Cell organized an international Faculty Development Program to enrich the Online teaching skills of the teachers.

Resource persons

Prof ABSV Ranga Rao, Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam

Brief Bio-data of Resource Persons

With over 33 years of teaching experience, Prof ABSV Ranga Rao published books on Gandhi. He is the former Head of the Department of Social Work Andhra University, Former Director, Gandhian Studies Centre, Family Counsellor, Editor of a journal Gandhian Vision, organised number of seminars on different dimensions of Gandhian thought.

Flyer



ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM - 533296

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME



RELEVANCE OF GANDHIANISM IN TODAY'S YOUTH

OCTOBER 2ND 2020

TIME 11:00 AM

CHIEF GUEST



Prof. M. JAGANNADHA RAO
VICE-CHANCELLOR
ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY

GUEST OF HONOR



Prof. B. GANGA RAO
REGISTRAR
ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY

Resource persons

Prof A.B.S.V. Ranga Rao

Gandhian Studies Centre, Andhra University

ABOUT UNIVERSITY

Adikavi Nannaya University was established on April 2006. This University aims to combine the pristine cultural and the contemporary demands of educational excellence in its vision.

The University consists of four colleges in main campus namely University College of Arts & Commerce, University College of Engineering, University College of Education and University College of Science & Technology

ABOUT NSS

The University encourages creativity and social service amongst its students. The University is charting a new pathway of progress under the esteemed guidance of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. M. Jagannadha Rao. Adikavi Nannaya University prides in being in the largest university of Andhra Pradesh with 450 colleges & 290 NSS units.

ABOUT WEBINAR

Mahatma Gandhi was a true leader and is the Father of the Nation. His life and Teachings are great source of inspiration for the today's youth. He was such an icon for the youth that showed the spirit of glory and way to freedom for Indians. His weapons "Satyagraha" and "Non cooperation" are still relevant and are followed by many.

Today, the Indian youth is facing a hard time. After seven decades of independence the youth has become more morally, ethically, socially and spiritually adrift. Modernization combined with Globalization has changed life in general and the lifestyle of youth in particular in the last few decades. The change affects the youth, the most as the young mind is like a clean slate. It is all the more essential that Gandhian values are inculcated among the youth in earnest so as to make them more vivacious and active for Nation building.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

CONVENER

Dr.B.Kezia Rani

NSS, COORDINATOR

ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY

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DESIGNED & ORGANIZED BY

NSS TEAM

ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY

Program Sheet



ADIKAVI NANNAYA UNIVERSITY, RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

NSS Cell

Workshop on Relevance of Gandhism in Today's Youth

02-10-2020

Program Sheet

10:00 AM – 10:10 AM	Welcome Address
10:10 AM – 10:20 AM	Opening Remarks by Dr B Kezia Rani, NSS Coordinator, Convener
10:20 AM – 10:30 AM	Introduction of Chief Guest
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Address by Chief Guest, Prof M Jagannadha Rao, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, ANUR
11:00 AM – 11:10 AM	Introduction of Resource Person
11:10 AM – 12:00 AM	Session by Prof ABSV Ranga Rao, Andhra University

Convener's Message

It has been about seven decades since India gained independence; however, our nation still remembers and cherishes the man who was among other responsible for attaining this freedom. Mahatma Gandhi is remembered for his teachings. The ideas that he preached still echo in people's minds today but how far are these ideas of non-violence and truth that won us our liberty relevant in today's life and society.

Mahatma Gandhi's principles of Ahimsa was based of the idea on the non-violence and compassion. In face of colonial violence, he proposed responding with non-violence. To his mind, a calm non-violent response lowers the anger and frustration of the aggressor. Non-violence as a principal remains relevant especially today with so much going around us. Learning to deal with issues calmly and rationally without resorting to violence is always good. When Mahatma Gandhi first spoke of Swaraj, he meant in the sense self-ruling. Swaraj meant to be free from foreign influence and external control. In today's age, India has self-ruling government however how many of us are controlling that we are free from external influences? What Swaraj stands for is one's control over one's self. It is imperative to exercise self-control and self-discipline while being free from the temptations of the outside world. In today's fast paced competitive world, every young person of India has the responsibility of searching for their own identity without being forced to fit into the moulds created for them. And coming to truthfulness, Mahatma always advocated honesty. He not only believed in the power of truth but also condemned the act of lying. The three tenets of truth, truth in thought, truth in speech and truth in action. However, at present state of affair, Gandhi is remembered mostly remembered on his birthday, celebrated as a national holiday. As a matter of fact, India is not following any of Gandhi's teachings which are mostly confined to textbooks. For example, Gandhi's message of Swabalam that is self-sufficiency which is use of homespun Kadhi is not followed. Another example, the country is definitely not following Sarvodaya, a broad Gandhian term meaning universal upliftment or progress of all masses and downtrodden. If we try to analyse the secret of Gandhi's success, it is faith and action. His activism is inclusive of many spiritual practices inspired by inner urgings of the conscience

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's Message

As we gather to celebrate *Gandhi Jayanti* in India, the world comes together to join us in observing the *International Day of Non-Violence*. I think this illustrates the everlasting impact that Mahatma Gandhi has on our world. It is pertinent that we remind ourselves of the importance of peace and harmony today. In fact, it seems more mandatory than ever that we instill these ideals into the citizens of India.

Every Indian owes his freedom to Mahatma Gandhi and many other freedom fighters, yet if we look at the atrocities that are being reported every day, it begs one to question if we are truly grateful for the privileges we enjoy. After seven decades of independence, the nation is still marred with growing crime rates, growing tensions. It is a time to introspect ourselves if we understand the concepts of freedom.

It is important to remember that Mahatma Gandhi could have led a very successful life as a barrister without all the strife for the country. He deliberately chose the path of non-violence, a choice that demanded patience and sacrifice but with persistence focus on his goal. Such are the qualities that should be learnt from Mahatma Gandhi.

Today, that simple man who stood against the Imperial British silently demanding the rights of his countrymen is revered across the world. The principles of Gandhian Philosophy will continue to guide the nations towards a more peaceful and conflict free world that he always dreamt of.

With the responsibility to disseminate education and knowledge, everyone of us also needs to understand that we teach our students the significance of non-violence and the Gandhian ideals about our nation.

It is an understatement to say that we owe our progress to the relentless struggle of Mahatma Gandhi. It is therefore necessary that we remind ourselves of our privileges and responsibilities of being an Indian and take forward the heritage of non-violence to our future generations.

Resource Person's Lecture

Are Gandhian principles still relevant?

Gandhi still shines as a world preceptor or guru whose sermons and principles are still pertinent across the globe by virtue of their concern for humanity and universality. But on superficial perusal, one may find that his principles are utopian and unrealistic. One may find that humans are highly selfish and their interactions, be it socio-political or personal, are coupled with persistent distrust, conflict, disharmony, and violence. If humans are highly self-interested, then the Gandhian principles of ahimsa, asteya, aparigraha hold no importance for them. Hence, the ideal society which is based on truth, nonviolence and mutual love is highly unrealistic and imaginative.

Also, people hold the view that his principle of Aparigraha is inimical to the economic well-being of the individual and leads to voluntary poverty. In reality, this is not true. This concept of Aparigraha teaches us self-sustenance. His principle of Aparigraha holds the view that one must acquire only those possessions which are necessary for his sustenance and the rest should be used for the collective benefit of the society. So this principle in no way connotes voluntary poverty.

In the Gandhian polity, freedom and justice may not be realized by the individual as he says that religion and politics are inseparable and this would bring irrationality, orthodoxy, and conservatism into politics. So, his ideal society would be devoid of freedom and justice. On examination by his contemporary thinkers, it was revealed that he was not a visionary but a practical idealist. Although he said that religion and politics are inseparable, he also said that individuals need not be selfless all the time. People belong to different races as to religions, therefore, it would be difficult for us to live united. So, people must develop a habit of tolerance and mutual respect, so that they can live together. He also said that the cause of injustice will not survive and people should raise their voices against injustice.

Some of the Gandhian principles hold universal relevance. He thought that the main aim of education should not be getting a good degree or a good job, rather it should aim at grooming and character building of good citizens. But the contemporary education system negates the Gandhian surmise of education. There is a mad rush to secure good marks and gain a good job, rather than inculcating the values to build one's personality and good character. He said that instead of being a corrupt individual, one should fight against corruption. But this character building is unlikely to happen because we see mushrooming of such educational institutions who don't add even a single tinge of quality to education.

It is not wrong to remark that his principle of non-violence holds eternal relevance. But some hold the view that non-violence didn't work every time. It offered no solutions to many colonial ruled nations who achieved independence only after violent and bloody struggles. It is not imprudent to remark that Indian Independence is an achievement due to the non-violent means advocated by Gandhi, but we shouldn't forget the Bombay mutiny or Royal Indian Navy mutiny, in which the Indian sailors of the Royal Indian Navy attacked the British ports by turning the British ship

cannons. The British were aware that they could easily incarcerate an old man or allow him to fast, but they could definitely not suppress a mutiny or rebellion which enjoyed a large support base of the subjects they ruled. Also, non-violence must be coupled with the truth. When the truth is rejected, and when an illusory view of the world clouds our judgment, non-violence is also rejected. So, ahimsa is effective only when it is aligned with Satya. But in contemporary times, violence doesn't seem to be a feasible alternative. People say that countries are still determined to adhere to violence even if the opposing country is non-violent, but the truth is that non-violence requires tolerance and perseverance. It is rightly said that an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.

Also, when he says that government interference is not desirable as it undermines the true spirit of democracy, he was wrong in saying that. Government interference is necessary where people need incentives to make their lives better or to even meet their needs. His idea of promotion of local producers still holds significance.

On the behavioural and ethical part, Gandhian principles are of vital importance as the world is seeing the degradation of values. His values of self-empowerment and self-control are crucial because people seem to have succumbed under the worldly temptations. The degradation of values is to such an extent that people are ready to kill another person just to gratify their own needs. Respect of women is another idea of Gandhianism and is the need of the hour as the world is witnessing increasing brutality and subjugation against women. His dream of a safe nation necessitates safety of women which can be achieved through exercising self-control. Adding more to the list includes Gandhian principles of punctuality, honesty, duty boundness, which are the essence of good administration and governance.

His functional perspective of religious integration and coherence while vehemently criticizing religious conflicts, intolerance and exploitation are quite relevant. Our political situation is hanging by a thread. Rarely we find a political leader who hasn't sold his moral scruples and is selflessly working for the betterment of the society. The need for true leadership like Gandhi's is quite significant.

Although he is revered by several world leaders, Nelson Mandela saying that his principles are not applicable in every situation is also true. He said that if you fight an exploiter by fasting unto death or inflicting self pain to embarrass him to submit, this will not work in situations where the exploiter has no moral conscience. In most of the circumstances, the enemy wouldn't care for peace-loving measures.

It will be wrong to say that none of the Gandhian principles holds significance in present times. The emancipation of mankind from the evils and ills of contemporary lives seems to depend on some of the key principles propagated by Gandhi. Gandhi and his philosophies are always more than we even know. His political contributions offered us freedom, but his philosophies and principles enlighten our lives. Perhaps this was clear to Rabindranath Tagore and that is why he named Gandhi as Mahatma meaning a great soul. The influence of Gandhi on the course of human

history is almost without a parallel. It is rightly said that Gandhi belongs not only to Indian but to the whole world; he is not only of our times but all of all times and he will continue to have relevance throughout the coming ages.

Number of participants

500 – Zoom

480 -- YouTube

Outcome of the Event

The students are made aware of the following:

- The core concepts of Gandhian thought and philosophy.
- The Gandhian view on many social constructs such as youth, politics etc.
- The relevance of Gandhian concepts in today's society.
- Gandhi as an ideal image for Youth of India.

Feedback Report

The students were able to learn the importance of Gandhi, not as a political figure, but as a profound philosopher and a creator of Indian identity on the world stage. His ideology of non-violence sets him apart from the many scores of politicians and revolutionaries that existed before him and after him. The students of Adikavi Nannaya University are reminded of the immense ideals of Mahatma and his views for the future free generations of Indians. This event helped the students to understand the importance of freedom, its value and how it is ingrained in the human spirit.

Gandhi's concept of self-discipline, self-control and his finesse in public speaking and his views on caste system continue to influence the youth of India. Despite many social evils that still plague Indian society, it is important that the youth are made aware not just of the sacrifices of freedom fighters, but also of the ideologies that they held for future India. It is therefore pertinent that we understand, recognize, study, imbibe and realize these ideals as the present free generation of Indians. Gandhi will eternally remain relevant to not just India but to the whole world.

Photo Gallery with captions and Paper clippings



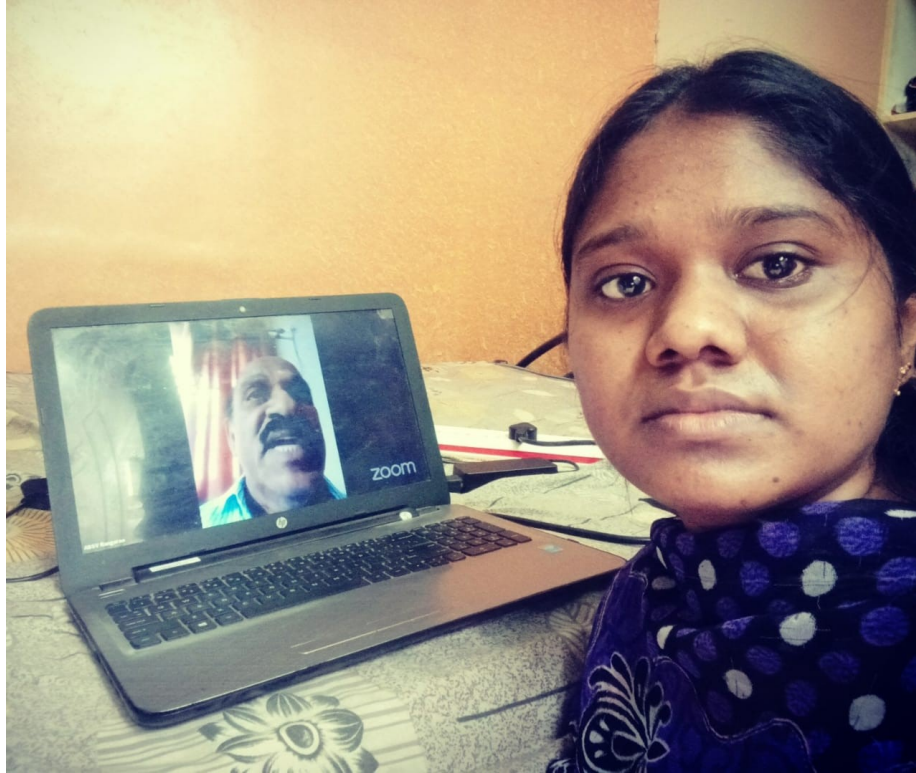
Prof M Jagannadha Rao, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's Address



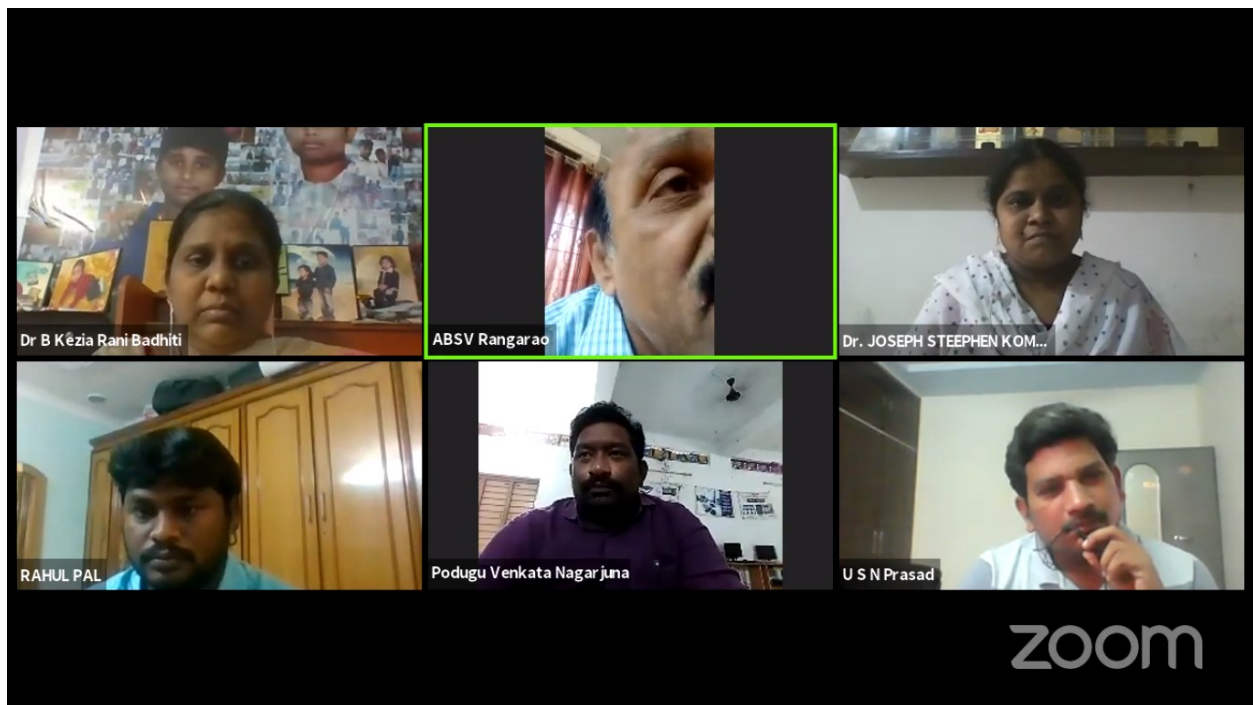
Dr B Kezia Rani, Convener, NSS Coordinator's Opening Remarks



Prof ABSV Ranga Rao's Address



Participants listening to Resource person



Participants listening to Resource person

యువత అహింస మార్గంలో పయనించాలి

వీసీ మొక్కా జగన్నాథరావు

నన్నయ మీడియా సెల్, 02.10.20: నేటి ఆధునిక ప్రపంచంలో హింస వెర్రితలలు వేస్తుందని అహింసామార్గంలో యువత పయనించి దేశాభివృద్ధి సమాజాభివృద్ధికి పాటుపడాలని వీసీ ఆచార్య మొక్కా జగన్నాథరావు అన్నారు. గాంధీ జయంతిని పురస్కరించుకొని ఆదికవి నన్నయ విశ్వవిద్యాలయం ఎన్.ఎస్.ఎస్ విభాగం ఆధ్వర్యంలో వెబినార్ను నిర్వహించారు. “రిలవెన్స్ ఆఫ్ గాంధీజం ఇన్ టూడేస్ యూత్” అనే అంశంపై జరిగిన ఈ వెబినార్కు ఎన్.ఎస్.ఎస్ కో.ఆర్డినేటర్ డాక్టర్ బి.కె.జి.యూ.రాణి కస్వీనర్గా వ్యవహరించగా వీసీ ఆచార్య మొక్కా జగన్నాథరావు ముఖ్య అతిథిగా హాజరై ఉపన్యాసాన్ని అందించారు. ఆధునిక మానవుని ఆలోచనలు హింసాత్మకంగా మారుతున్నాయని దేశంలో హింస అనేక కోణాలలో బయట పడుతుందని సమాజ క్షేమానికి మంచిదికాదని అన్నారు. అహింస మార్గంలో

స్వాతంత్ర్యాన్ని సాధించిన మహనీయుడు పుట్టిన నేలకు ఎంతో గొప్ప చరిత్ర ఉందని తెలిపారు. టెర్రరిజం నుండి గృహహింస వరకు వివిధ కోణాలలో జరుగుతున్న హింసకు అడ్డుకట్ట వేయాలని మానవుని ఆలోచనలు మారాలని అన్నారు. ఒత్తిడి లేని జీవన విధానాన్ని అలవరచుకుంటూ శాంతియుతమైన జీవితాన్ని గడపాలని చెప్పారు. గాంధీజీ నిరాడంబరంగా జీవిస్తూ ప్రపంచానికి ఆదర్శంగా నిలిచారని తెలిపారు. గాంధీజీ ఆరోగ్య సూత్రాలు, శాంతి మార్గాలలో నేటి యువత నడవాలని దేశంలో ఉత్తమ పౌరులుగా ఎదగాలని సూచించారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమానికి రిసోర్స్ పర్సన్ ఆంధ్రయూనివర్సిటీ గాంధీయన్ స్టడీస్ సెంటర్ ఆచార్య ఎ.బి.ఎస్.వి.రంగారావు గాంధీజీ సిద్ధాంతాలు నేటి యువతకు ఏవిధంగా ఉపయోగపడతాయనే అంశాలను వివరించారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో ఎన్.ఎస్.ఎస్ ప్రోగ్రామ్ అధికారులు, అధ్యాపకులు, విద్యార్థులు పాల్గొన్నారు.