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## **Gandhi's Influence on Modernization of India: An Analysis of the Film Gandhi**

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### **Abstract**

The aim of the study is to reveal the effects of Gandhi on the modernization of India by analyzing the main lines of the film titled Gandhi. Document review method, one of the qualitative research methods, was used in the research. As a document, the 1982 film "Gandhi", directed by Richard Attenborough and starring Ben Kingsley, was used. As a result, it was nominated for Oscar in 11 categories and won Oscars in 8 categories during its release. The film tells how and within what events Gandhi turned into a world-renowned charisma in his life, which he started as an ordinary person, how he resolved issues and problems in an impressively and swiftly, always at the forefront with people, with the power of the people behind him, and how India finally gained its freedom from the imperialist colonial powers. This film has introduced Gandhi to the world in a more detailed fashion. Although hundreds of books, hundreds of studies and articles have been written about Gandhi, none of them have introduced Gandhi to such a wide audience as this film. This process that India went through undoubtedly took place thanks to him and under his leadership, and laid the foundations of the modernization of today's India.

**Key Words:** Mahatma Gandhi, Film Gandhi, Silent Resistance, Charismatic Leader, Salt March, Fast to Death

## **Hindistan Modernleşmesinde Gandhi'nin Etkisi: Gandhi Filmi Üzerine Bir Analiz**

### **Özet**

Yapılan çalışmanın amacı, Hindistan modernleşmesi üzerinde Gandhi'nin etkilerinin, Gandhi filminin ana hatları üzerinden analiz edilerek ortaya konulmasıdır. Araştırmada nitel araştırma yöntemlerinden doküman inceleme yöntemi kullanılmıştır. Doküman olarak, yönetmenliğini Richard Attenborough'un yaptığı ve Gandhi'nin hayatını konu alan 1982 yapımı, Ben Kingsley'in başrol oynadığı "Gandhi" filminden yararlanılmıştır. Sonuç olarak yayınlandığı dönemde 11 dalda Oscar adaylığı olmuş ve 8 dalda Oscar kazanmıştır. Sıradan bir kişilik olarak başladığı hayatında dünyaca tanınan bir karizmaya nasıl ve hangi olaylar çerçevesinde dönüştüğünün, olayları hep en önde halkla birlikte, halkın gücünü arkasına alarak etkileyici ve hızlı bir şekilde nasıl çözdüğünün anlatıldığı ve sonunda da Hindistan'ın emperyalist sömürgeci güçlerin elinden özgürlüğünü nasıl aldığının anlatıldığı bu film dünyaya Gandhi'yi daha iyi tanıtmıştır. Onun hakkında yüzlerce kitap, yüzlerce araştırma yapılmış ve makale yazılmış olmasına karşın hiç biri bu film kadar onu bu denli geniş bir kitleye tanıtmamıştır. Hindistan'ın yaşadığı bu süreç, hiç şüphesiz onun sayesinde ve liderliğinde gerçekleşmiş ve günümüz Hindistan'ının modernleşmesinin temellerini atmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhi Filmi, Sessiz Direniş, Karizmatik Lider, Tuz Yürüyüşü, Ölüm Orucu

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## Introduction

The history of humanity has witnessed vast amount of resistances, the majority of which have the same common feature. Violence against violence, anger against anger, and plunder against plunder, in short, with the principle of retaliation, have been shown. Some of these resistances were successful and most of them resulted in frustration. However, the whole world has seen the power of nonviolence in the face of violence, calmness in the face of anger, and silence in the face of insult for the first time. He succeeded in engraving the name "Gandhi" in golden letters in history with his resistance, which he called "Silent Resistance" and made a big impression all over the world. He has shown this philosophy and the power of his philosophy to the whole world. The injustices suffered by India and its people against the colonial powers have gained the love and sympathy of the people and the world by showing an unprecedented resistance against these injustices, and as a result, it has succeeded in becoming the main actor in winning the freedom of India.

The Bapu of the Indian people, whose real name is Mohondas Karamchand Mahatma (Great Spirit) Gandhi, has resisted injustice in their own land in a way unprecedented in the world. Gandhi, who is known as the "Silent Resistance" in the world and whose name has gone down in history, who has become a charismatic leader with the great support of the people in a short time, who has become legendary with his simple, simple, unpretentious and weak body, who is known to the whole world in a short time... Through the film in which Gandhi's life is told, the stages of modern India in Gandhi's identity and the rebellion that started with Mahatma Gandhi against colonialism have been tried to be conveyed partially. Gandhi's being thrown off the train due to his skin color while traveling in the first-class train compartment as a lawyer was perhaps the first spark of awakening and silent resistance and the beginning of the whole series of events that led to independence (Mencütekin, 2007). In this study, which will try to analyze the conflict of tradition and modernity in India through the film Gandhi, the sequence of events will be followed, and analyzes will be tried to be made based on the main events, especially by adhering to the film. The philosophy of life adopted by Gandhi was then adopted by all the people of India in a short time and quickly flared up. This flame enveloped the whole of India, while he preferred a simple and simple life, he preferred a scepter in his hand with bare feet, a single piece of loincloth he made with his own hands on his back, simple clothing and constantly doing his own work. Gandhi's message of "I am self-sufficient" accordingly became influential for the people of India turning into "we are self-sufficient". Again, it is quite remarkable that Gandhi respects all religions, tries to unite them, uses the death fast applied against the bad course of things as an effective weapon, and ultimately gains the love of everyone by achieving his goal in simple and effective ways.

It will be a narrative of the points in the history of India where Gandhi's legendary struggle with simple but effective and impressive resistance is concentrated, in which points it is effective and in which situations it loses its effect. The world recognized the "Silent Resistance" and understood what "Salt March" means with Gandhi's identity. We will attempt to analyze through the white screen how effective the death fast he has kept to calm the emerging religious conflicts with the love of the people and full support of the people of India. By examining the outlines of the film Gandhi, it will be tried to convey which events have been effective in the history of India and what are the different but effective struggles against colonialism. How and in what way Gandhi assumed his charismatic and leading identity, which events elevated him to the leader class and how these events responded in the world, and even today, the outlines of Gandhi's philosophy will be tried to be conveyed through the film.

## **Gandhi's Life**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, born in the town of Porbandar, State of Gujarat, India (October 2, 1869), is the fourth child of a religious family (Gandhi, 2016). Mahatma Gandhi belongs to the Vaisya class, the caste system that determines social classification in India. It is known that his father Kaba Gandhi served as prime minister several times in addition to his various legal and political duties, and his mother Putlibai, like her father, was an intelligent woman who understood state affairs. While the Gandhis were initially operating as grocers, they served as prime ministers of various states in Kathiawad for three generations, starting with their grandfather (Mehta 1977). Mahatma Gandhi, who married Kastura Bayi at the age of 13, had three sons from this marriage. Although Mahatma Gandhi's marriage at the secondary school level negatively affected his success at school, he became a successful student in the following years and obtained many scholarships. Mahatma Gandhi went to the same school with his siblings, and his brother were married in the same period. The fact that they had to take a break from their education for a year due to their marriage caused his older brother to drop out of school. Mahatma Gandhi, who completed his secondary education at the age of 18, started Samaldas College in Bombay and decided to go to England to study law on the advice of Mavji Dave, a friend of his father (Büyükbakçeci, 2016). Removing Mahatma Gandhi, a member of the Hindu religion, from the caste for violating the ban on going overseas did not prevent him from going to England to study law. Mahatma Gandhi, who completed his education in England and returned home, was very impressed when he saw the injustices experienced in his country and could not bear it emotionally. Mahatma Gandhi, who is considered as the "bapu", that is, the father of the Indian people, has adopted a number of principles on the way to the Silent Resistance in his lifetime, which he is known as the principle holder and described as "My message is my life." Mahatma Gandhi, who thinks that every person should learn a lesson from his life, stated that the most important lesson he learned from his life was to stay away from the following elements, which he determined and described as the seven deadly sins (Özenç, 2006).

## **Seven Principles of Life of Gandhi**

Mahatma Gandhi believed that profit without work, pleasure without conscience and awareness, wisdom without character, commerce without ethics, science and technology without humanity, religious faith without sacrifice, and politics without principles are elements that lead humanity to sin, and he advocated for their avoidance until the end of his life (Gandhi 2016).

### **1. Earnings without Work**

Mahatma Gandhi's father, Kaba Gandhi, was a person known for his dependence on the state, who did not accept bribes and did not have a passion for wealth. Mahatma Gandhi, who grew up in the same consciousness, paid attention to the fact that the living money was earned through sweat, and he saw the incidents of bribery in the government offices in the early years of his profession and thought that the effortless earnings were not right (Gandhi 2016).

### **2. Pleasure without Awareness**

A painful experience he had during his time in England was an important factor for him to practice his profession. The fact that Mahatma Gandhi did not cut his hair because of his skin color paved the way for him to gain self-confidence by doing his own work. Thus, Mahatma Gandhi adopted a simple lifestyle and raised his children in this way. Although it will take years for the caste feelings that surround his whole self to be destroyed, he believed that in many ways, dedication to society is primarily about organizing his own life (Basham, 1954).

### **3. Politics without Principles**

Mahatma Gandhi has been of the opinion that the principles of honest administrators are shaped around being beneficial to the people, the homeland and the world. According to this policy, a politician who knows his/her homeland and people well can be considered the best politician (Özenç, 2006).

#### **4. Politics without Devotion**

Gandhi saw the difference between having a belief and living that belief, and during his stay in England, he read the Bible, Torah, Bhagavat Gita and tried to understand Hinduism again. In this context, it would not be wrong to place Mahatma Gandhi's ahimsa on the basis of self-recognition. After adopting to read Gita, he applied it to find a solution to his problems. For Mahatma Gandhi, who emphasized that the spiritual training of man can only be achieved with ahimsa, ahimsa has been a key that opens the door of the Silent Resistance. Therefore, worship without devotion was considered as the product of incomplete faith (Özenç, 2006).

#### **5. Information without Qualification**

Mahatma Gandhi believes that science and education should not be separated from education and training. According to him, if an individual develops their information within a system where the understanding of morality and decency is given, such individual can be useful to people (Güngören, 2001).

#### **6. Commerce without Morals**

Mahatma Gandhi, based on the idea that trade should be formed on the basis of respect, honesty and trust, just like friendship, predicts that the moral of trade will bring peace to people (Basham, 1954).

#### **7. Science without Humanity**

Mahatma Gandhi adopts the argument that the reason for the existence of science is the peace and welfare of people. He thinks that as long as scientists lack an understanding of humanity and conscience, they will be frustrated (Güngören, 2001).

### **Gandhi's Principles of Life**

Mahatma Gandhi was a leader with certain principles that he embraced on his way to ensure the welfare of the country and to bring peace to the people. These principles can be listed as follows (Bilgiustam, 2018) :

#### **Accuracy**

The first place is taken by the accuracy that will be considered the beginning of everything for Mahatma Gandhi's principles. Mahatma Gandhi, who devoted his life to finding Satya (truth), thought that he gained experiences from his own mistakes and summarized his beliefs with the expression "Truth is God".

#### **Passive Resistance**

For Mahatma Gandhi, the struggle is in line with passive resistance. Mahatma Gandhi, who made his choice in favor of passive resistance in order to survive and live humanely, is the first leader to apply this idea seriously in the political dimension.

#### **Vegetarianism**

Undoubtedly, one of the most prominent principles of Hinduism is not to eat meat. Mahatma Gandhi was also very influenced by this principle because his mother was a dark Hindu and he did not

eat meat even when he was outside India. According to him, a vegetarian diet without eating meat served an economic purpose, which is both beneficial to the human body and India, which has a very low income level.

### **Brahmacharya**

For Mahatma Gandhi, Brahmacharya means staying away from worldly pleasures. There is information in the sources that Mahatma Gandhi promised himself to stay away from sexuality at the age of 36, thinking that passionate emotions gave him a great sense of guilt and shame. According to him, Brahmacharya means "control of emotions in thought, word and action".

### **Simplicity**

It has been observed that Mahatma Gandhi, who is known to have always adopted a simple lifestyle, thinks that Western-style life is very expensive and encourages his family and environment to live a simple life. In fact, it is said that when he realized how expensive it is to have someone else do laundry, he started washing and ironing his own shirts. On the other hand, he boycotted British goods by recommending that the people sew their own clothes themselves.

### **Religion**

Mahatma Gandhi, a member of Hinduism, learned Buddhism, Christianity and Islam from his holy books and respected all of them by believing that all religions are equal (Bilgiustam, 2018).

### **About the Film Gandhi**

Regarding Gandhi, Albert Einstein stated "Future generations will not believe that such a flesh-and-blood person walked this earth." Since the 20th century, the world has evolved, changed, but not calmed down. The form of imperialism and colonialism has changed, but when it comes to resisting imperialism and colonialism, the first name that comes to many people's mind despite all these years has still not changed. His name is "Mahatma Gandhi". 75 years have passed since his death. The West has not let go of its mission, which it has adopted in its own way in order to bring democracy and civilization to the peoples, whom it has found primitive with its unchanging discourse for centuries. The world has never seen a similar struggle in the 20th century, which Gandhi described as the "Passive Resistance" in his own words, to achieve the independence of his British colonial country India, and which he did not give up despite everything (Gandhi, 2001). Gandhi, who fasted to death many times in order to make his people not to take up arms and resort to violence during his struggle for years, to make others adopt the statement "There are many cases that I will risk to die for, but there is no case that I will kill for." Gandhi was not only known as the "Father of the Nation" in India, but also became a leader who was loved by all the peoples of the world and remembered even in the 21st century with his stance while struggling against imperialism (Easwaran, 1997).

The film Gandhi, which is considered one of the best films in the genre of biography, best summarizes what he experienced throughout his life, what forced him to such a struggle, and what happened during this struggle. At the beginning of the film, those involved in the film state "Nobody's life fits into a narrative. It is impossible to give the necessary weight to each year and to include every event and person who has a role in shaping a life. What can be done is to stick to the essence of the historical record and try to understand the heart of this man." (Geetha, 2004). based on events that changed the fate of Gandhi and India. The 1982 film, which was nominated for 11 Oscars, received 8 Oscars, among others, "best film", "best director", "best actor", and the film has more than 30 awards from many award ceremonies worldwide. (Online, <http://www.kimkimdir.gen.tr>, February 24).

"Destroy the unjust regime with justice. Come out in front of the applause with bloodless hands." Gandhi

The film begins with a funeral ceremony held in New Delhi on and after the day of Gandhi's murder on January 30, 1948, which attracted great attention from the people of India, as well as world

leaders and the press. The scene seen in the first minutes of the film, which was filmed with the participation of 300,000 people and is also known for the record of being the most crowded group of people in a film, gives you an idea of how special a person's life you will watch (Krishna 1969) . During the funeral, a foreign member of the press told Gandhi that “The owner of this great tribute has died as he has always lived. Without humility, wealth, property, title, position, Mahatma Gandhi... He was neither the commander of armies nor the ruler of giant lands, he had neither scientific success nor artistic talent. But people, governments and dignitaries from all over the world have joined hands to pay their respects to this little man in loincloth who has led his country to freedom.”

The process that compelled Gandhi to engage in the struggle for independence began in 1893 when, while traveling in a first-class compartment on a train in South Africa, he was subjected to discrimination as he is asked to travel in third-class compartment or be kicked off the train due to having dark skin. After this, Gandhi stated: "This must be fought against. We are also the children of God." The seeds of inequality, injustice, social class struggle and the struggle for the independence of his country will be planted for years (Payne, 1969). Throughout the film, the events that started in South Africa and continued in India, revealing the justified reasons for the struggle against imperialism, are listed one by one. The film, which can be described as perfect in many ways, also attracts attention with its political references. Referring to Britain's imperialist approach, the film reveals historical facts. In addition, the film reveals the spiritual maturity of Gandhi, who has an incredible reputation worldwide for his struggle, who does not hesitate to clean toilets even when he is considered a leader by the people of India and those around him would follow everything he would say. “When I despair, I remember that throughout history, truth and love have always won (Lloyd, 2004). There have been tyrants and murderers, they have even been thought invincible for a while, but in the end they always lose, think always.” Unfortunately, Gandhi put his life on the line for the values he fought for, against all kinds of discrimination, and stated “I am a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Jew. You all are.” Although Gandhi's power is enough to make his country independent, it will not be enough to prevent the fragmentation between the Hindu and Muslim peoples living in India. Jinnah, the leader of the Muslim mass among the people of India, said in the film: “Gandhi, I am not interested in the independence of India. I am thinking about the slavery of Muslims. I will not watch the transition from the reign of the British to the reign of Hindus.” (Easwaran, 1997).

This process, which is mentioned towards the end of the film, unfortunately reveals that more than just a leader is needed to keep people with differences together despite all kinds of correct approaches. What makes this film special is the life of Gandhi, the subject of the film, as well as the terrific acting of Ben Kingsley, who plays the character of Gandhi. Ben Kingsley, the son of an English mother and an Indian father, not only lost a lot of weight for the role, but also traveled to places where Gandhi lived before the film. After all, there is a Ben Kingsley who looks almost inseparably like Gandhi, giving his part in the film to the fullest. I believe that the film, which tells us about 40 years of Gandhi, who lived a life that teaches humanity with his stance and messages despite the distress experienced by his country in the 20th century and the persecution he personally saw, and who has an attitude that should be an example for many leaders even today, will maintain its importance in the years to come. If you want to watch a really good film these days and you have three hours, I think Gandhi might be one of the best options for you.

### **Purpose and Importance of the Research**

This study aims to present how India got rid of the imperialist powers through the Gandhi film, how and in what way Gandhi's contributions were by preserving the Indian traditional line in the formation of modern India. When the number of written publications on Gandhi and India is examined, it is noteworthy that it is possible to reach a substantial number of books and articles on Gandhi and India. The significance of the white screen reaches more people faster and influencing more than the written press, allowing us to better understand and get to know Gandhi and his philosophy. In this study, it will be tried to convey which touches Gandhi made to the history of India through the film, the remarkable events in the film and the events that can be considered as turning points in the history of India.

Although there are enough publications on India and its modernization, evaluations on films are very few. For this reason, the study is considered very important because Gandhi and his philosophy will outline India's modernization process through the film.

## **Method**

In this study, the document analysis method, which is one of the qualitative research methods, was used. In the document review method, a literature review is made on the subject to be investigated and different written and visual materials such as archive records, books, magazines, biographies, diaries, letters, if any, are examined (Balci, 2001). However, while Kıral (2020) considered document analysis as a qualitative data analysis method, O'Leary (2017) focused on document analysis as a data collection technique and also as an indirect data analysis method. Where direct observations and interviews are not possible in the qualitative research design, the inclusion of a comprehensive review of written materials serves as a valuable tool to increase the validity and reliability of the study. Thanks to this approach, a comprehensive analysis of materials related to the research subject that strengthens the research effort can be carried out (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2011). The reason for choosing the document review method in this study is that it is suitable for the purpose of the research.

## **Data Collection Tool**

In the study, "Gandhi", a 1982 film directed by Richard Attenborough and about Gandhi's life, starring Ben Kingsley, was used as a documentary. The reason for choosing this film is that it conveys the effects of Gandhi on the modernization of India and Gandhi's life in outline to the audience.

## **Data Analysis**

The data obtained in the research were analyzed by content analysis. Since visual sources will be examined in the research, it was preferred to use content analysis. For this reason, the outline of the movie 'Gandhi', which is the subject of the research, has been drawn and presented with its titles.

## **Findings**

### **Evaluation of the Film Gandhi in the Context of Tradition and Modernity with Outer Lines**

Stating at the beginning of the film that it will be faithful to people, names, dates and historical events historically gives the impression of a real life story, and the fact that it is a biographical film creates a different trust in the audience. It sends the message that we will truly make sense of Gandhi's life. The film rewinds starting on 30 January 1948, when Gandhi was shot dead by a nationalist Indian, and the beginning of the film is actually the end.

### **First Spark, First Resistance**

The year is 1893, Gandhi as a lawyer, Gandhi's skin color is incompatible with the ticket he bought for the first-class train compartment by mail, and it is a futile effort for Gandhi to say that he is a lawyer, that he has the same rights as you, and that someone with brown skin cannot travel in the first class even if he has a ticket with the British, as the British call him, and he is eventually thrown off the train. Gandhi's training as a lawyer in England being subjected to such treatment affects Gandhi deeply. And the first seed of this idea of resistance can be regarded as the first spark of the passive resistance movement. When discussing that period, it is generally noted that even in India during that time, the wealthy and high-ranking Indians were often considered as second-class citizens in their own land. This is also a subject that the film seeks to highlight. After being thrown off the train, Gandhi

promptly took action and sought to read a statement to the people of India. He also gathered influential leaders to accompany him in this endeavor. In the first statement, he makes initiatives that can attract the attention of the international press and the world public, and ultimately succeeds. Even in the first notification, they declare that they will not resort to violence in any way and that they will resist any bullying against them without violence. In the first paper reading, he burns the passage permits given by the British government as a reaction, while he is beaten, he does not give up his action despite being beaten and shows the message and stubbornness of how to follow a path by not showing violence against violence. In the first declaration, it attracts the attention expected in the world press and the British Imperialists become uneasy.

### **Principle of Class Discrimination versus Classlessness**

It is quite clear that Gandhi's being a lawyer was quite effective in his actions. The emphasis on equality at every opportunity expresses a classless future and life expectancy. Accordingly, he gains strength in his cause by establishing good relations with and acting together with opinion leaders who have Hindu, Muslim and Christian beliefs. As he behaves accordingly, on the other hand, he sends a very strong message against the discrimination by the British and the impositions of a class society structure and receives great support from the public base. In the film, this subject is discussed as follows: When building a new settlement with people with different religious beliefs, toilet cleaning is in question in turn. When it comes to Gandhi's wife, she says that ordinary Hindus who do not belong to any class do the toilet cleaning and do not want to clean it. In this case, Gandhi's attitude is clear and shows that no compromise will be made even if he is his wife and gives his wife the message that "if we want equality, we must do everything equally". In the face of Gandhi's clear attitude, his wife starts to think like him and says that she will clean the toilet. This incident can be accepted as an indication that Gandhi's wife has now adopted the case. In this case, despite the class distinctions of the British, it is clearly emphasized that a classless social structure is desired in every field in every way.

### **Resistance for Miners - First Victory**

In India, that is, the lands of Gandhi and Hindus, miners support Gandhi in actions. The British forces are disturbed by this situation and imprison the miners. Gandhi and his supporters also take action for the release of the workers. The man in charge of the British cavalry says to Gandhi, "I warn you, end the action." Gandhi responds, "We warned each other." In this way, again, we are equal, you give me the message that my superiority over you is out of the question. Thereupon, the mounted troops march onto the activists with the horses, the activists just lie on the ground and do not respond in any way. This means that passive resistance has become more mature and has been adopted by all its supporters. In fact, lying in front of the horses without any protection means that your true face is revealed in every way. This situation makes a big impression in the world press, attacking vulnerable people with horses and sticks has a great resonance in the world commune game and gives great power to the case. All prisoners are released in prison. This result gives Gandhi and his supporters a great victory and power, and the number of supporters increases, so they gain even more power.

### **Return to India**

The fact that tens of thousands of people welcomed him when he returned to India in 1915 would be a great tribute to the whole world. His return to India has been just like a true Indian, fully dressed in traditional Indian clothes, and gives the message to the public that we are not Europeans but Indians, we exist in our traditional form. One of the most striking aspects of this welcome is that other religious opinion leaders gathered around Gandhi and formed a whole. Again, the general image of Indian society is the general mosaic, in fact, we exist in our entirety, we are India. Gandhi traveled a large part of India during this period, and the biggest challenge he faced was to live like an Indian in India. In India, the British decide what an Indian will do, how he will live, what rights he has, what he will sell and what he will buy, and despite the poverty of the people, the British have the wealth they gain from the poor backs of the people and raise by stepping on their backs. Gandhi explains this situation clearly in a social declaration, explains how uncomfortable he is with the situations he



encounters, and is arrested again without giving any reason. Because the British make the laws in India and maintain the order according to themselves.

### **Bapus of the Indian People**

The British take business so far that they even deduct the cost of hunting, which is one of their own hobbies, from the poor Indian people. Not only that, rents are increased to cover expenses, people are mistreated, violence and beatings increase, seizures, requests for services without paying, and even the most humane water of the people is not provided. The insurgents, who are aware of these situations, use this negative environment to demand a reduction in payments from the British administration in response to these situations, to grow the products they want and to request a board consisting of half Indians where they can tell their own problems. The most pathetic part of the work actually lies here, they want their basic needs as if they want privilege in their own land. One of Gandhi's most impressive sentences in the film is "You can't be the head of a family in someone else's house." As a result, all of these desires are met and they continue to walk more confidently. These gains are the first rights gained in the legal sense, and Gandhi's being a legal man has a great share in achieving the gains. After the recent developments, the people now call Gandhi Bapu(father). Now the public is completely behind Bapu. He adopted a simple life with traditional clothes, preferring a bamboo walking stick in his hand, short hair and a traditional Indian doing their own work to the British wearing modern clothes and using the power of modern weapons.

### **Power of Passive Resistance**

A person faces various problems throughout his/her life from birth to death. And to solve these problems, he looks from different perspectives and tries to find various solutions. When we look at it as a teaching method, problem solving method is used effectively in almost every lesson. The process of coping with a problematic situation is tried to be understood by the student through the subjects given in the lessons. (Kalaycı, 2001, p.20) The classroom environment is the same as we use problem solving skills in daily life. For example, if environmental pollution is addressed in the Social Studies course, this is a problem and solutions are sought. Here, we can say that the solutions that the teacher seeks to address the problem include the student in the subjects while looking for these solutions, that they are in interaction together, and that this method can positively contribute to the child's solution to the problems he/she encounters in life. The main purpose of this method is for the student to focus on a problem and look for new ideas for its solution, to use his/her mind at the highest level while looking for these solutions, to be able to reason among the solutions he/she finds, and ultimately to gain practicality while solving all kinds of problems that he/she may encounter in real life in the future. Kan (2003) obtained positive results on the experimental group students of the problem solving method in his research. In other words, according to the findings of this research, it is possible to state that the use of problem solving method in the Social Studies course increases the success of the student in favor, contributes to the production of solutions to personal and social problems and can improve scientific thinking skills.

### **National Strike and National Prayer Day**

As Gandhi's passive resistance and his supporters grew in strength, the British forces responded with increasing violence and unjust actions. The British military utilized all their power to control the resistance movements. In fact, everything in India belongs to the Indians, only someone needs to remind people of this situation. During a period marked by a significant increase in violent incidents, and when the oppression and exploitation regime had reached its peak, Gandhi called upon the entire Indian population to engage in a national prayer and fasting as a form of protest. In order to do this, he declared a national strike on that day. In this case, no Indian would work, no order would be obeyed, so to speak, life in India would stop. The message Gandhi aimed to convey to the British forces was that everything in India belongs to the Indians, and without us, everything would cease to exist. He meant to emphasize that if Indians were absent, the helplessness you find yourselves in is the result. And just as Gandhi expected, life stopped in India, the Indians were happy with the situation, they were already living the life, but the British could not digest this situation and Gandhi was imprisoned

again. However, this time, the reaction of the Gandhites is also very harsh. Violent incidents have begun in a way that will please the British. These incidents mean the sudden death of the passive resistance that Gandhi nurtured, nurtured, breathed his soul, and embodied in the flesh. All the torture and cruelty meant that all the troubles endured were wasted in an instant. In this case, Gandhi absolutely did not back down and declared that he does not approve of any of what has been done, and perhaps there will be an event that shows the whole world the true face of the British, who changed the course of all events. As the message urging Gandhi's supporters not to abandon their commitment to passive resistance and to remain true to their philosophy and traditions was being read to a crowd mostly comprised of women, the elderly, and children, the British, relying on their military might, arrived and indiscriminately opened fire on these defenseless individuals. Thousands of children, women, and elderly people lost their lives, and thousands more were wounded. In fact, this situation shows the whole world how weak the British were, not their power, and is a definite proof of the British weaknesses.

### **Gandhi's Philosophy at its Zenith**

It is well-known that different religions have coexisted peacefully in India for thousands of years, freely practicing their daily rituals, which have become an integral part of everyday life in India. The harmonious coexistence of different religions was not to the liking of the British because they preferred a state of chaos, violence, and tension to necessitate their presence and make themselves appear as the absolute and sole authority needed to suppress violent incidents. Religious leaders were now express the need for British forces to leave their lands from the high curtain and say that they will fight to the teeth if necessary. The British governor stated Who would suppress the religious conflicts in these lands, and if the British is not here, how can you rule if we comply with this request? This situation also revealed the importance of passive resistance, and there is no need for military power to suppress it where there is no violence. In Gandhi's largest and most widely attended proclamation, he spoke with utmost certainty about religious harmony. He stated that they will embrace all religions as sister faiths and that everyone belonging to different faiths are also brothers and sisters. His messages were stronger, clearer and bolder. His strongest message was that they would no longer wear clothes from Europe, and he asked everyone to take off their clothes and gather them in the middle and burn them. A huge fire would be seen everywhere where clothes from England are collected and burned, saying that all the people of India should wear Indian traditional clothes and we do not need anyone. Gandhi now even makes his own fabric to make his own clothes, and even spins his own strings. The less we desire, the less dependent we become. In this case, he emphasizes the importance of tradition by dressing in accordance with the Indian tradition and wants the new order to be established to be in accordance with the Indian tradition. His charismatic leadership has now reached its peak, and as his supporters see that he is right in every situation, they now follow his wishes to the letter, and the supporters do just about anything he wants. Gandhi is now known and influenced by world history. It is a simple loincloth consisting of a bamboo walking stick in his hand and a single piece on his back. He is a charismatic leader who constantly spins rope to make his own clothes, eats little food and lives simply, minimizes his needs, and devotes himself only to India's cause of freedom by staying away from sexuality even in marriage life, even in his human needs. Adopting a simple Indian tradition actually adopts the philosophy of living with this much. He says that the less we consume, the more independent we become, and instead of wearing modern clothes produced by someone else, we live in simple but independent clothes in accordance with our own tradition.

### **Fasting to Death**

The fire of independence, which has spread all over India, has engulfed everyone and was desired to reach a conclusion as soon as possible. Actors of different religions came into play and everyone started to fight for their own interests and started to strangle each other. Every day, news of violence and death came from all sides and the situation got out of control. In this case, Gandhi made the decision to go down in history and started the fast of death until all conflicts stop and fasted to death until everything was okay. Since this situation deeply affects his supporters and they knew of his persistent and stubborn nature, their belief in Gandhi's love, Gandhi's philosophy and charismatic

leadership ensures that all actions are ended and thus the fast of death ends. After the violence was over, everyone gathered around passive resistance again. Passive resistance was now so embraced that the people gave flowers to British soldiers.

### **Historical Salt Walk**

Salt is of great importance in the lands of India, salt, like water, is considered the source of life and is considered almost sacred. According to the law that the British put on the territory of India, only the British can do the salt trade, however, taxes are collected from the whole people under the name of salt tax. Gandhi embarked on what he considered his most significant action, a historic Salt March spanning hundreds of kilometers, believing it would have an impact far beyond its symbolic value. Everywhere he passed, the people welcomed him with demonstrations of love and respect. Together with thousands of united Indians, he reached the sea on the anniversary of the day when the Indian people were gunned down. This confluence of historical significance and the impact of the march multiplied significantly. The salt walk reached the desired result and the people start to trade salt. Salt has a very important place in the Indian tradition, and according to Indian belief, salt is needed as much as air and water are needed for human survival. In the face of this situation, the British reacted with no surprise and imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Indians, yet the people remained loyal to the passive resistance and did not commit any acts of violence. Faced with the power of passive resistance, the British became more and more impotent and imprisoned Gandhi again without giving any reason to provoke the people further. Again, there is no return of violence from the people. Now that everything has matured, the British have become the most impotent with the injustices they have done in front of the whole world. And the expected news reached Gandhi and he was invited to London for India's independence negotiations. And in the end, Gandhi and his philosophy prevailed and India gained its independence. The British have lost the repressive military regime based on violence. India gained its independence, but the disputes with the Muslims could not be resolved, internal turmoil and violence could not be prevented, and the Muslims went to Pakistan and the Indians there came to India. In the first scene of the film, an extremely nationalist Indian has assassinated Gandhi by shooting him with a gun on a day of prayer. Gandhi died, but his philosophy became immortal.

### **Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendations**

Although biography is frequently used in the field of education as a literary genre, it is an educational method not only used in the field of literature, but also used in all courses of education and training studies. In this study, Gandhi's influence on the modernization of India was examined through the movie Gandhi.

The study was carried out with the document analysis technique, which is one of the qualitative research methods. The books examined in this study are the textbooks published by Tuna Publishing in 4 Grades, Ankara-E Kare Eğitim Yayıncılık Matbaacılık for 5th grades, Ankara-Anadol Matbaacılık Yayıncılık for 6th grades, and distributed to public schools by the Ministry of National Education in the 2022-2023 academic year.

When the 4th-6th Grade textbooks examined within the scope of the research are evaluated in general, it is possible to say that the use of biography is intensively included. The biographies used were not evenly distributed to the units, and it was determined that some units used a lot, some used a little, and some units did not use a biography at all. In general, it was observed that the biographies used in the books examined were selected from the people the students would take as examples, and they were supported with visual materials to be permanent in the minds of the students. Yiğittir and Öcal (2010) reached a similar conclusion by finding that primary school 6th grade students increased their diligence by taking as an example the exemplars whose biographies were given. When assessed by categories, it has been determined that out of a total of 19 biographies used, 10 fell under the theme

"Learning About My History", 8 fell under the theme "Glad They Exist," and 1 fell under the theme "Individual and Society" in the 4th-grade class. In the 4th grade textbooks, 2 women's biographies were used and it was seen that both of them were used in the "National Struggle" unit.

In the 5th-grade textbook, a total of 10 biographies were used. When comparing the usage of biographies by themes, it was determined that the theme "Power, Governance, and Society" was used the least, with only 1 biography, while the theme "Science, Technology, and Social Life" has the highest usage, with 5 biographies being used. In this case, it is possible to say that the use of biographies in the 5th-grade Social Studies textbook varies according to the emphasized units. In contrast, in the 6th-grade textbook, it is determined that there are 8 biographies used in the "Journey Through History" theme, 4 in the "Technology in Our Lives" theme, and one biography each in the "I Produce, I Consume, I am Aware" and "Importance of Democracy" themes.

When comparing the use of biographies among the different grades, it is observed that the 4th-grade textbook includes 19 biographies, the 5th-grade textbook includes 10, and the 6th-grade textbook includes 14. Therefore, it is evident that the 4th grade includes the most biographies, while the 5th grade has the least. In the books examined, it was determined that intensive biography was used in some units and no biography was used in others, and it was observed that there was no rate in the use of biography in the units. It is the most striking finding in the study that only 2 women and 9 foreigner biographies were used in the 4th grade textbook, on the other hand, all the biographies used in the 5th and 6th grade textbooks were selected from male and domestic people, and no woman and foreigner biographies were preferred.

Teaching courses to the students in a more permanent way with the use of biography, thus providing detailed information about the personalities who have made valuable contributions to the subject in the past. Thus, it is thought that students will achieve the targeted gains by taking valuable people as an example for the society whose biography is used. In a similar study conducted by Er (2010), it was determined that primary school students took the people they wrote as role models by researching and writing the biographies of people who are exemplary in society and who arouse curiosity with their lives. In addition, the fact that there is a positive relationship between success and diligence in the opinions of the people about their characteristics reveals the importance of using biographies in textbooks. Another noteworthy issue in the research is the prominence of the authors by briefly emphasizing the lives of the authors of the texts used in the themes during the teaching of the subjects to be given to the students and including the biographies of these authors. In the books examined, it is seen that some of the people whose biographies are used are living people who have lived in the past and some are still living people.

Based on the results of the study, the following suggestions were made for a more effective Social Studies teaching on students:

In the books examined, it was determined that a lot of biographies were used in some units and no biographies were used in some units. Considering the effect of the use of biographies of appropriate people in appropriate units in textbooks on the positive and permanent learning of students, biographies of people suitable for the age and class of students should be included more in all units covered in textbooks.

In order to contribute to the professional development of teachers through in-service training, it is essential to plan in-service training seminars that focus on the implementation and enhancement of the biography method more effectively and widely.

While teaching Social Studies courses, different teaching methods and techniques should be used together with the biography technique, and the students should watch documentaries or videos, if any, of the people whose biographies are given, and their permanence should be ensured.

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