

An ideal village, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi, would be.....

An ideal village, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi would be a village where everybody wears Khadi as their indigenous clothing. Every inhabitant would be spending some of their time spinning the charkha. The village would have the largest possible amount of small scale industries. Everybody would be educated. The roads and wells would be clean and would have playgrounds for children as well as adults. Different communities would live with harmony among them and there would be no quarrels and thefts. Discrimination would not be practiced and untouchability would be abolished. In the village, everybody would co-operate with each other.

The village itself would be self-sufficient. The village would be a completely independent for its important necessities yet interdependent on others for other wants. A village, in any circumstances can never produce all the things it needs and nor should it aim at doing so. So, one village must aim towards complete self-sufficiency, but it will have to get things from outside that it cannot produce in the village. Instead, the village should try to produce the things that it can produce as much as possible. Thus, the village will be able to bring those things that it can't produce in exchange of the mass-produced items. The village should never export their produce too far off cities and nor should it aim to do so. They should instead help its neighbouring villages or towns. Mahatma Gandhi once wrote "Our outlook must be that we would serve the village first, then the neighbourhood, then the district and thereafter the province."

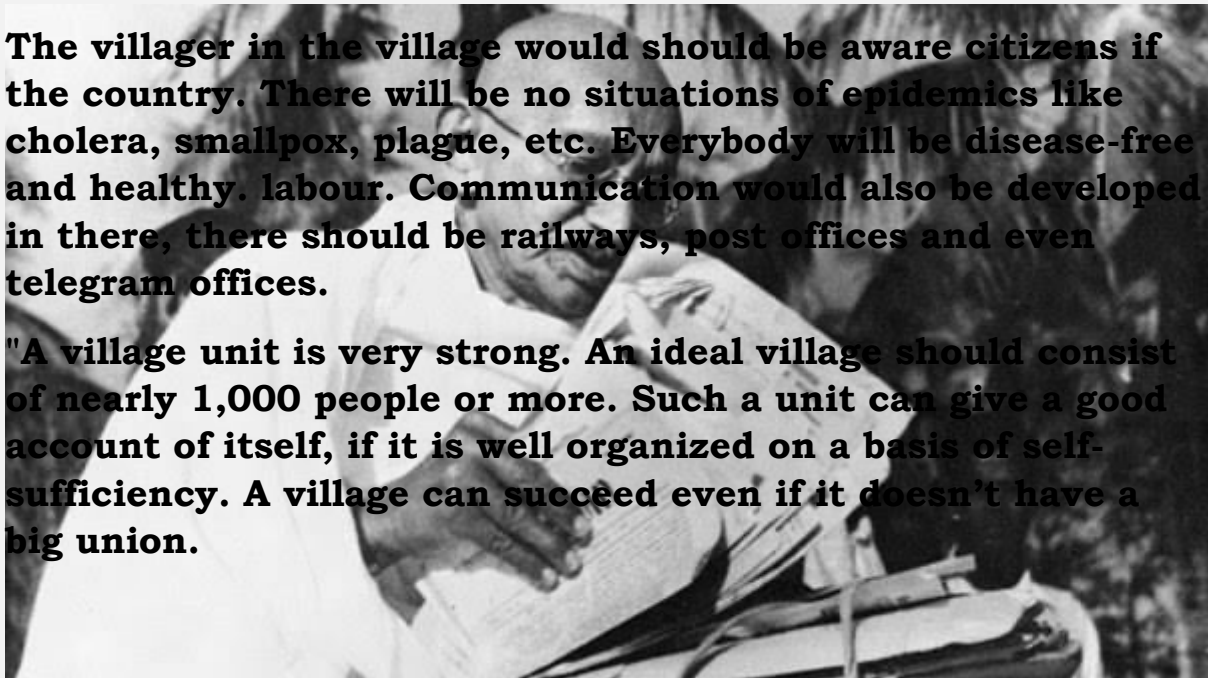
The village would have a school and its own waterworks, ensuring clean water supply. This could be achieved by controlling wells or tanks or by other artificial means. Most of the activities would be conducted socially, on cooperative basis. The government of the village would follow the panchayati system consisting of five people and this government would be elected by all the adult citizens of the

village without any sort of discrimination. The panchayat will have all the authority and the panchayat must be re-elected after equal interval of time.

Mahatma Gandhi himself wasn't able to successfully convert his own village into his ideal village though he tried many times. When his followers asked him about it, he quoted- "Any lover of true democracy and village life can take up a village, treat it as his world and sole work, and he will find good results. He begins by being the village scavenger, spinner, watchman, medicine man and schoolmaster all at once. If nobody comes near him, he will be satisfied with scavenging and spinning."

The villager in the village would should be aware citizens if the country. There will be no situations of epidemics like cholera, smallpox, plague, etc. Everybody will be disease-free and healthy. labour. Communication would also be developed in there, there should be railways, post offices and even telegram offices.

"A village unit is very strong. An ideal village should consist of nearly 1,000 people or more. Such a unit can give a good account of itself, if it is well organized on a basis of self-sufficiency. A village can succeed even if it doesn't have a big union.



Our Beloved father- Mahatma Gandhi

“Friends and comrades, the light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere. Our beloved leader ‘bapu’ is no more. The light that has illumined this country, will still be seen in this country, and the world will see it and solace to innumerable hearts.....”

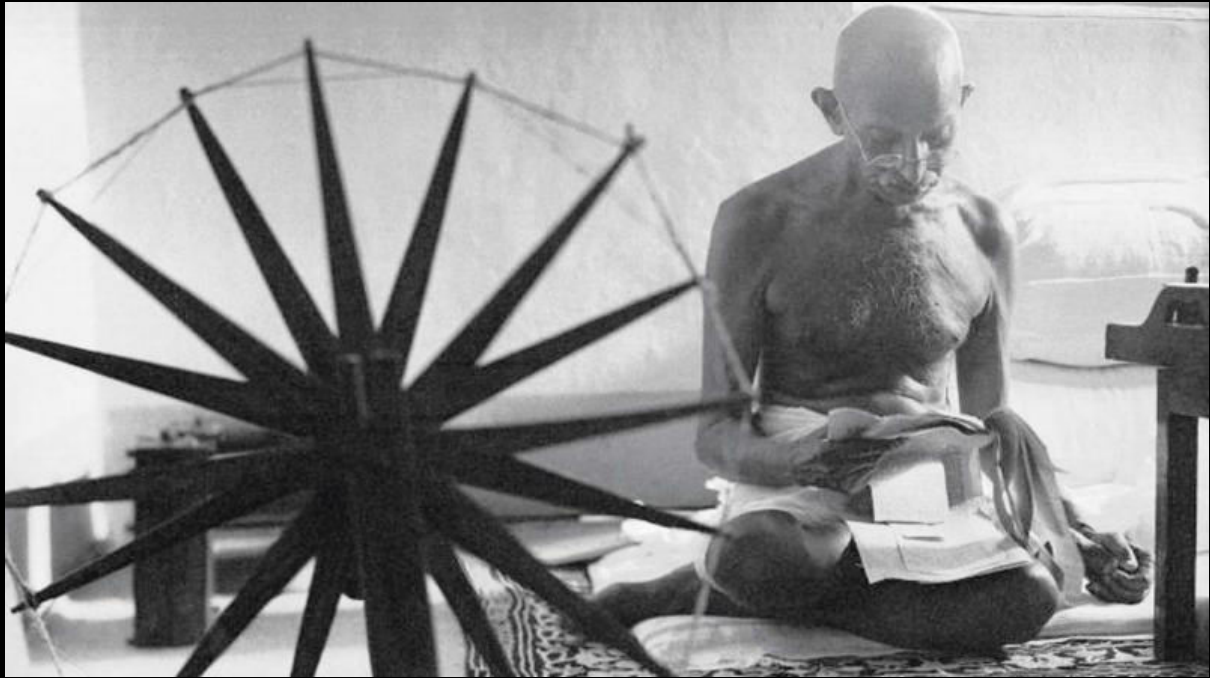
-These lines were said by Jawaharlal Nehru during the funeral procession of Gandhi ji.

Mahatma Gandhi was a beam of light that pierced the darkness and altered the workings of many people's minds. Though in his childhood Karamchand Gandhi was no different from the millions of other children born in India, yet he brought a revolutionary change in Indian history. Mahatma Gandhi's early life had mostly passed in Africa as a lawyer. Though more than a lawyer he seemed to be a rebel against the unfair and harsh treatment of the innocent people of Africa and the coloured people of India by the colonial rulers of South Africa. The disrespect and torture inflicted by the Britishers made him mentally tough for the Indian struggle and mass movement. After coming to India Gandhi ji witnessed the struggles that people were going through. Moreover there was corruption, cheating, and many other anti-social activities. Scant attention was given to sanitary arrangements. He thought a great deal about the problem of improving the Indian character. He knew that a good human being will know the essence of being free and passionately strive for it. So, he along with other political members held a meeting to decide about the social and political reforms which are necessary in our society to make people more self-sufficient. Mahatma Gandhi immensely contributed towards our freedom struggle.

Gandhi ji's speeches were mesmerising. He believed that it is essential to observe the vows of truth, ahimsa, celibacy, non-stealing, non-possession, and control of the palate. He established an ashram in a village near Ahmedabad which is an ancient sector of handloom weaving. In this manner he revived the cottage industry of hand spinning which is an important part of Indian heritage. He named this institution as "Satyagraha ashram". A meeting of some of the leaders was called at the ashram and a Satyagraha pledge was drafted. That was the first great awakening of India in her struggle towards freedom. He devised the non-cooperation movement and asked people to boycott the foreign goods and not to accept any honours offered by Britain. He also advised people to make their clothes themselves and avoid the western lifestyle and adopt the rich and varied culture of India. Britishers saw the popularity of Mahatma as an indication of the massive outbreak for regaining independence. For this reason they captured and arrested Gandhi ji several times and punished him for instigating the people to go against the British rules. But this never made him weak instead gave him more strength to fight without fear and encourage people of India to continue with their struggle for full independence which deeply shook the British rule. Various movements like Civil Disobedience, Salt Satyagraha, Quit India Movement were initiated by him. According to him after independence all the people should live in peace and harmony, where there are no social differences and menaces like untouchability, caste system, exploitation of women are abolished. This inspired the drafting of the constitution of India. Leading a simple life was his main objective. His unconditional love and devotion for his country helped us to become free and live with unity.

Just like a father shapes the career of his children, he also carved a righteous path with great virtues for our country, following which we will definitely reach great heights. Today we could stand and proudly say that we are Indians which is possible only because of the hardships of the people of India and the objective driven leaders like Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. The essence of his teaching was fearlessness and truth, and action allied to these, always keeping the welfare of the

masses in view. More than social and cultural values, Gandhi ji instilled a patriotic feeling in the heart of every Indian in a such a way that the whole world today has a different outlook towards India.



GANDHIJI'S VISION OF AN IDEAL VILLAGE

An ideal village, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi would be a village where everybody wears Khadi that is their indigenous clothing. In the village every inhabitant should be spending some of its time in cotton production or other related processes. The village should have the largest possible amount of village industries. Everybody should be educated and education till the final basic level should be compulsory. The roads and wells should be clean in the village. It should have playgrounds for recreation of children as well as adults. Different communities should have harmony between them and there should be no quarrels and thefts. Discrimination should not be practiced and untouchability should be abolished. In the village, nobody should be allowed to be idle or unemployed and the villagers should co-operate with each other.

The village itself would be self-sufficient. The village should produce its own Khadi (A homespun cloth), oil, rice, wheat and jaggery. Self sufficiency does not mean narrowness or being self-contained. The village should be a complete republic, independent for its important necessities yet interdependent on others for other wants. Every village's major concern should be growing its food crops and cotton. If there is more land left, it should produce useful money crops and not tobacco or opium. A village, in any circumstances can never produce all the things it needs and nor should it aim at doing so. So, one village must aim towards complete self-sufficiency, but it will have to get things from outside that it cannot produce in the village. Instead, the village should try to produce the things that it can produce as much as possible. Thus, the village will be able to bring those things that it can't produce in exchange of the mass-produced items. The village should never export their produce too far off cities and nor should it aim to do so. They should instead help its neighbouring villages or towns. Mahatma Gandhi once wrote "Our outlook must be that we would serve the village first, then the neighbourhood, then the district and thereafter the province."

The village should have a school and its own waterworks, ensuring clean water supply. This can be achieved by controlling wells or tanks or by other artificial means. Most of the activities should be conducted socially, on cooperative basis. The government of the village should be a panchayat consisting of five people and this government should be elected by all the adult citizens of the village including women. The panchayat will have all the authority and the panchayat must be re-elected annually. Thus, every village will be a republic or panchayat having full powers.

Mahatma Gandhi himself wasn't able to successfully convert his own village into his ideal village though he tried many times. When his followers asked him about it, he quoted- "Any lover of true democracy and village life can take up a village, treat it as

his world and sole work, and he will find good results. He begins by being the village scavenger, spinner, watchman, medicine man and schoolmaster all at once. If nobody comes near him, he will be satisfied with scavenging and spinning."

The villager in the village should not be dull instead, he should be aware. The people will live in freedom and would be prepared to face the whole world. There will be no diseases like cholera, smallpox, plague, etc. Everybody will be disease-free and healthy. Nobody would live in luxury and everyone will have to do body labour. Communication should also be developed in there, there should be railways, post offices and even telegram offices.

There should be equality between villages and cities. Therefore, their food and drink, their way of life, their dress and their habits should be the same. People in the cities should also produce their own cloth and food and build their own houses. They should produce their own water and electricity.

Every village has to be self-sustained and capable of managing its affairs even to the extent of defending itself against the whole world.

"A village unit is very strong. An ideal village should consist of nearly 1,000 people or more. Such a unit can give a good account of itself, if it is well organized on a basis of self-sufficiency. A village can succeed even if it doesn't have a big union.