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(MAHARASHTRA, INDIA)

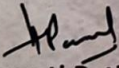
Centre for Gandhian Studies  
International Seminar on

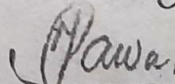


THE MAKING OF THE MAHATMA : M. K. GANDHI IN SOUTH AFRICA

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mr./Ms. V. M. Awad of S. M. College, Akhuj has participated in the three days International Seminar on **"The Making of the Mahatma: M. K. Gandhi in South Africa"** organized on 10th, 11th & 12th March 2011 at Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and has presented a paper entitled Gandhi's Experiments with Brahmacharya strange or useful? at the Seminar.

  
Dr. Bharati Patil  
Convener  
International Seminar

  
Prof. N. J. Pawar  
Hon. Vice Chancellor,  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur



**International Seminar**

on

**Making of the Mahatma :  
M. K. Gandhi in South Africa**



International Seminar  
on

# **Making of the Mahatma : M. K. Gandhi in South Africa**



Organised by  
**Centre of Gandhian Studies,  
Shivaji University,  
Kolhapur, (Maharashtra)**

**10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
Venue : V. S. Khandekar Bhasha Bhawan**

## Brahmacharya:

Sr.No.	Researcher Name	Title of Research Paper
1	<b>Dr. Charu C. Mishra</b> K.G. Arts and Science College Raigarh (CG)	Practice of abstinence: Evaluating Gandhi in Retrospect.
2	<b>Mrs. Kanchan A. Gaonkar</b> Dept. of English, Karnatak Arts collage, Dharwad KA	Gandhian concept of Brahmacharya
3	<b>Dr. Sachin S. Jaiswal</b> HOD of Pol.Sci. B.D.Kala and Vanijya Mahavidyalay Yavatmal.	The law continence or Brahmacharya
4	<b>Prof. V. R. Surve</b> Dept. of English, S. M. College Akhuj  <b>Prof. V. M. Awad</b> Dept. of Political Science, S. M. College Akhuj, Solapur <b>Prof. B. S. Mulik</b> Dept. of Philosophy, S. M. College Akhuj, Solapur <b>Prof. T. J. Mahadik</b> Dept. of Economics, S. M. College Akhuj	Gandhiji's Experiments with Brahmacharya Strange or Useful?
5	<b>Dr. Sou. Manjusha Nilake</b> Jeevan Hospital, K. B. P. College Road, Islampur, Tal-Walawa, Dist. Sangli.	Gandhi and his Experiments with Brahmacharya
6	<b>Pankaj P. Nandeshwar</b> <b>Sukhdev S. Undare</b> Research Scholar GVISH, Amaravati.	Gandhiji & Philosophy of Brahmacharya
7.	<b>Sagar Pardeshi &amp; Prafulla Pangul</b> , Gandhi Research Centre, North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon	Gandhi's Aspect on Brahmacharya

## Ashram:

1.	<b>Ms. Madhuri Khot</b> Dept. of Political Science Rajaram College, Kolhapur <b>Ms. Nilkantha Lokhande</b> Research Students, Dept. of Political Science, Shivaji University Kolhapur <b>Mr. Sarneck Vikas Mohan</b> Rajaram College, Kolhapur	Gandhi's Ashrams in South Africa
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BRH No. 4

## Gandhiji's Experiments with Brahmacharya: Strange or Useful ?

*Prof. V. R. Surve, Prof. V. M. Awad,  
Prof. B. S. Mulik, Prof. T. J. Mahadik*

We are proud to have Mahatma Gandhi as our leader and guide. He can be considered as the champion of values, useful for the people all over the world. Gandhi was an experimentalist. His experiments with 'Brahmacharya' were most significant and widely discussed by the people. Some people view them as 'strange' and others think them as 'useful'. This paper focuses on usefulness of brahmacharya in the present day context.

The word 'celibacy' means rigid control over sexual urge or avoiding sexual contact. But for Gandhi, 'brahmacharya' means control over thought, word and action. It is a way to self-realization or attainment to 'Brahma'.

Gandhi took the vow of brahmacharya in 1906, when he was in Phoenix. Outwardly it seems that it was taken under the influence of paternal emotions. But it can be interpreted in some other ways. The paper discusses possible impact of religious, physical, philosophical and political reasons behind Gandhiji's decision.

Towards the end of his life, Gandhi started experimenting with brahmacharya in order to test his self-control. It was not an easy process. It is very interesting to see how he achieved success in controlling his senses.

Today, we see that the people all over the world are becoming more and more lustful. Pre-mature, pre-marital, extra-marital sexual relations and love affairs are increasing. Sex crimes such as molestations, rapes, murders, divorces, prostitution, deceits, abortions, incest and scandals are frequent coverages of media reports and police diaries. Uncontrolled diseases like AIDS are the chief concern worldwide. And here we remember Gandhi and his principle of brahmacharya.

Though sex is a gift of nature, it should be used for natural and divine purposes. So it can be firmly said that Gandhiji's experiments with brahmacharya are useful for the people all over the world in all ages.

Brahmacharya consists of a conventional Hinduism spiritual education occurring during the teenage years, literally implying a period of time in which Brahma shall provide assistance to the student; it is the period of time in which a student becomes inculcated in the mystical doctrine. Under other non-Hindu circumstances, Brahmacharya denotes a mode of life devoted to spiritual Endeavour in which sexual continence or even abstinence (celibacy) is highly valued and ardently pursued. The general conception of Brahmacharya consists of two sections: Brahma – the omnipotent creator constituting a core part of the Hindu Godhead Trimurti; and Brahmacharya – The notion of being adhered to Gandhi's brahmacharya. Gandhi conceived of the significance of Brahmacharya when he was 16; Gandhi conceived of Brahmacharya as a means to near God, transcendence realism, purity, realization, and truth Gandhi hence perceived of Brahmacharya as his 'monitoring of senses'. Gandhi even elaborated his conceptions to complementing his Brahmacharya practices through intentionally endeavoring to resist lust, by sleeping next to a woman on the same bed while maintaining and restricting him to not conduct sexual intercourse with her. Ordinarily brahmacharya is understood to mean control of sexual organs and prevention of seminal discharge through complete control over the sexual instinct and the sexual organs.