

## ESSENCE OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Civil disobedience, also called passive resistance, refusal to obey the demands or commands of a government or occupying power, without resorting to violence or active measures of opposition; its usual purpose is to force concessions from the government or occupying power. Civil disobedience has been a major tactic and philosophy of nationalist movements in Africa and India, in the American civil rights movement, and of labour, anti-war, and other social movements in many countries. Civil disobedience is a symbolic or ritualistic violation of the law rather than a rejection of the system as a whole. Civil disobedience was launched by Gandhiji in India as well as in Africa .in india in 1930 after Gandhiji's 11 point ultimatum was rejected by then Governor General Lord Irwin. Gandhiji responded to it by launching civil disobedience by breaking salt law. civil disobedience has a deep and marked role in the struggle for indian independence.

There is no denying the fact that in today's world whenever residents of a country are not satisfied with the working of the government or they want to concede some concessions from the govt they invariably follow violent methods. but this pattern did show a anomaly in the result of 2009 presidential elections in Tehrain.

The protests in Tehran began by denouncing the presidential election results. When the administration started the repression the people created a massive civil movement. The state authorities were challenged by what came to be known as the "Green Movement" what is now understood as a Gandhian moment in post-revolutionary Iran, young men and women from all walks of life protested for fundamental changes in the leadership of the Islamic Republic, its economic system, and many other civic issues. For the first time in decades movement saw participation of women volunteers. The demonstrators condemned violence and the exercise of power without ethics . The Iranian political society had abandoned ethical values since the constitutional revolution of 1906-1911 and adopted violence as a means to force regime change. So, the non-violent action by the Iranian Green Movement was proof of adhering to new values and political action. The Green Movement chose civil disobedience, particularly silent demonstrations, to unify people, which gave it a "Gandhian" touch. The Green Movement is not only an important moment in Iranian history, but also a watershed in the history of non-violent initiatives across the globe. The rise of the Green Movement represents

an explosion of democratic thought and action, which created a “new unity of purpose”.

Civil disobedience has still not lost its significance as an idea. Its importance is still very much intact and it is up to us how we want to bring about a change whether by violent means or by the Gandhian technique of non-violence or passive resistance.

