

Tradition in English”, “Impact of Gandhi on Indian English Literature” etc.

The department of English invites scholarly research articles on the theme of the seminar. The focus should be on the literary aspect of the core theme. Research papers should be from 3000 to 5000 words written according to VIII edition of MLA handbook.

### CONTACT

*For Abstracts & Full Papers*

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### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission : 31-12-2018

Submission of Full Paper: 10-01-2019

#### Registration Fee

Academics: Rs. 1000 / Students: Rs. 800

(Till 10-1-2019) Spot: Rs. 1500

*Registration Fee may be sent via RTGS to the account*

Department of English

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IFSC Code: ALLA0210281

My dear Jawahar  
you must not be  
stunned rather re-  
joice that God gives  
strength & direction  
to do my duty. I could  
not do otherwise. As  
the author of non-violence  
I have a heavy respon-  
sibility lies on my shoul-  
ders. forgive me in  
writing you in-  
cessantly of Lucknow  
& Caranpore. Let me  
drink the cup to the  
full. I am quite at  
peace with myself  
19 9 24 Yours sincerely  
M.K. Gandhi

Gandhiji's writing: right hand

**Prof. Mukta Sharma**

: Seminar Director

**Prof. H.S. Chandalia**

: Convener

**Dr. Mehzbeen Sadriwala**

: Organizing Secretary

# NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GANDHI IN INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE

22-23 January, 2019



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities  
**M.V. SHRAMJEEVI COLLEGE**  
Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth  
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## CONCEPT NOTE

The year 2018-19 is 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi. It is no exaggeration to say that he was one of the most prominent Indians who influenced the world in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Besides the herculean political feat of involving the masses of India in the freedom struggle, he wrote extensively in the form of books and journalistic writings throughout his life. He wrote in Gujarati but some of his writings were in English too. Several people across the world were impressed by his personality and action. His life was a text in itself which spoke louder than his words.

In the time Gandhi lived there were two prominent political and economic models before him. The western model of capitalism embraced by the United States of America and Europe and the Socialist model which came into being with the Great October Revolution. Gandhi was not a Marxist but was influenced by John Ruskin's *Unto This Last*. This book gave him inspiration to think of the proverbial last man in the last row which he called as "Daridra Narayan" and spoke of the welfare of "Daridra Narayan" as an ideal of democracy. His fight against untouchability, boycott of foreign goods in favour of indigenous commodities, motivation to women to fight in the freedom struggle rubbing shoulders with

men, fight against racial discrimination, philosophy of austerity in consumption, adhering to truth and non-violence as greatest values of life, and exemplary courage of wearing a Dhoti in public sphere were such marvelous features of his life that influenced many a author across the world.

Indian English Literature was much influenced by Gandhi. In the 1920s and 1930s there was a trio of Indian English authors which gave shape to Indian English fiction. This trio included Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao. Interestingly enough all the three wrote works in which Mahatma Gandhi appeared as a character. Dr. Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* is a novel that focused on the central concern of Gandhian thought i.e. untouchability. Dr. Mulk Raj Anand showed this novel to Gandhiji in Sabarmati Ashram and edited it incorporating the suggestions of Mahatma Gandhi before it was published from England. Raja Rao wrote *Kanthapura* in which Gandhi appears as a living character who talks like any other Character. R. K. Narayan's *Waiting for Mahatma* is another text where Gandhi emerges as a presence. These three pioneering works of Indian Writing in English have become classics now.

The second generation of authors in India who became prominent after the independence also felt the influence strongly. Chaman Nahal an

eminent novelist who wrote in English came out with a set of four novels called *Gandhi Quartet*. Of these *Azadi* received the Sahitya Academy Award. Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, a prominent journalist and novelist wrote a play called *Barrister At Law*. There are innumerable works on Gandhi which discuss his political, economic and philosophical ideas. There are memoirs, collection of letters, biographies, interviews, documentaries, feature films and even critical writings. *Walking with the Mahatma*, *Trial of Gandhiji* and *Let Us Kill Gandhi* besides his murderer Nathu Ram Godse's own account *Why I Killed Gandhi* are among the plethora of books which have drawn attention of readers.

Mahatma Gandhi was himself an author. His autobiography *The Story of my Experiments with Truth*, *Hind Swaraj*, *Constructive Programme: Its Meaning and Place and Key to Health* are some of his prominent works. In addition there are thousands of pages he wrote in his paper the *Harijan*, *Indian Opinion* and *Young India*. The paper *Harijan* was published in Gujarati as *Harijan Bandhu* and in Hindi as *Harijan Sevak*. In addition his speeches have also been edited and published in several volumes. There is no dearth of researches on Gandhi. Essays pertinent to our topic include "Gandhian Influence on India Writing in English", "Gandhiji in Indian English Fiction", "Gandhi and Indian