

ISSN 0975-5497

Social Science in Perspective

Quarterly Journal of
G. Achutha Menon Study Centre & Library
Thiruvananthapuram

MAHATMA GANDHI
A Contemporary Reading



*A small body of determined spirits fired by
an unquenchable faith in their mission
can alter the course of history*

M. Gandhi



Vol. 52

No. 384

July - September & October-December 2020

SPECIAL ISSUE

Democratic Decentralisation, Regeneration of Villages and Self Government: The Gandhian Perspective

M.R. Biju &
M.R.E. Anantha Parmanantha

The Gandhian approach to democratic decentralisation, village regeneration and self government were fully humanistic and holistic in nature and content. It was rooted on devolution, self-sufficiency, co-operation, equality, swadeshi and trusteeship. His stress was on the utilisation of available resources for the benefit of the maximum number of people. He firmly stand for the political and fiscal devolution backed by administrative decentralisation. Real democracy and decentralisation cannot be established by a few people sitting at the top but by sharing power and authority with the people. He also envisaged an ideal socio-political and economic order in which everybody is his ruler and he rules himself in such a way that he is never a burden or hindrance to others. Masses should become aware and conscious of their capacity to regulate and control the authority. It should be the government and governance of the people by the people and for the people.