

**GANDHI ASHRAMS:  
BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE  
DURING  
FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

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# **GANDHI ASHRAMS: BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE DURING FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

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## P R E F A C E

Gandhi's life and thought is basically associated with India. But Gandhi's background in Gujarat and his legal studies in England, as well as his experiences in South Africa are the basis of a total theory of the relationship between self and society. Like Tolstoy he is a social philosopher who poses a challenge to Enlightenment notions of progress. Cooperation and self-reliance were the basis of Gandhi's ashrams. Gandhi also used the Ashram as a laboratory for his experimentation and a training academy for a non-violent army. People came there from all parts of India, even from foreign countries, and joined him in his experiments in Truth and Non-violence. As a matter of fact, all his activities were based on his desire to achieve Truth through Non-violence. Six ethical and moral principles -- *swadeshi*, *aparigraha*, bread labor, trusteeship, non-exploitation, and equality-together with the concept of *swaraj* were the concepts of Gandhi Ashram.

The book is divided into six chapters: *Chapter I* describes how Gandhi defeats his shyness and developed as a dynamic leader. *Chapter II* focus on the establishment and the concept of Gandhi Ashram at South Africa. *Chapter III* throws light on Gandhi Ashrams in India including establishment of Shri Gandhi Ashram. *Chapter IV* discusses the creative works at different Ashrams. *Chapter V* compares different Ashram and differentiates them with ancient ashrams and defines the constitution of different Ashrams. *Chapter VI* is the conclusion of the book.

 Dr. Archana

**Dedicated  
to  
my  
FATHER**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*“Knowledge is an experience gained in life, it is the choices possession, which should not be shelved but should be happily shared with others.”*

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 *Dr. Archana*

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