



## Article-51 a of Indian Constitution: Fundamental Duties and Analysis of Own Behavior

SAGAR ANILBHAI GANDHI

Research Scholar,

21-B Tagor Nagar Society, B/H, Civil Court, Navsari

### Abstract:

*As a citizen of any country, the person is benefited with certain kinds of rights and certain kinds of rights and simultaneously obliged with certain kinds of duties. These duties create a foundational and philosophical base to promote equilibrium between government and citizens, healthy and prosperous nationalism. All over the world, there are numbers of constitutions available as the founding philosophy of respected country, however, Indian constitution is one of the significant documents that is notified as one of prestigious constitutions at global level.*

*India has the lengthiest written constitution in the world. Indian constitution is considered as the supreme source of Indian democratic, social and sovereign philosophy for Indian citizens. Indian constitution defines each and every aspect associated with regulation of county's legal, political and administrative organs. Constitution defines certain fundamental rights for the Indian citizens in form of guaranteed rights and also defines certain fundamental duties on the citizens with regards to National peace and integrity.*

*Article 51 a of the Indian constitution describes certain numbers of fundamental duties obliged to every citizen of India. These duties are not in legal form but basically the moral obligations. Article 51-a is not originally a part of Indian constitution when it was formed and implemented in 1950, but later, due to various political and social changes Article 51 a was enacted into Indian constitution through the amendment.*

*Fundamental duties are the moral obligations on the Indian citizens to cherish the national values, culture, heritage, national wealth, traditional resources, human relations as well as the patriotic emotional bond with India as own country. Every citizen of India should try to fulfil all fundamental duties by using best practices and humble behavior in day-to-day life. This paper focusing on the theoretical aspects of Article 51-a and analysis of my own behavior in terms of fundamental duties.*

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**Keywords:** Indian Constitution, Article 51-A, Fundamental Duties, Nationalism, Behavior

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### 1. Preface

India as a democratic republic country holds longest and lengthiest written constitution with large number of social, political and legal content. Indian constitution provides adequate direction to sustain peaceful administration and regulation of country. It is the prime source to know the nationalism of India in terms of integrity and sovereignty. However, there is a foundational need of cooperative efforts of all three organs of the State to sustain equilibrium between country's wellbeing and political discourse.

Fundamental duties play vital role to fulfil adequate cooperation among all three organs of state and the citizens which can be considered as very core aspect of the country. There are various fundamental duties which are expected from the citizens to be carried out. Even in this current world of digital

advancement where the moral responsibilities are becoming secondary, each Indian citizen is obliged with several moral obligation towards the nation.

Fundamental duties are expected to carried out by the citizens of the country as a moral obligation. It is a moral obligation on the citizens to maintain the feeling of patriotism and unity among all the citizens of the country. Obligation to carried out such fundamental duties keeps the entire country peaceful and prosperous. It promotes nationalism, healthy human relations, conservation of national heritage, environmental awareness as well as the inclusive growth of whole nation.

## **2. Theoretical Background**

### **2.1 Indian Constitution**

Indian Constitution is the fundamental document of India that is considered as the supreme law of India. The document carries out the foundational framework that demarcates basic political codes, structures, procedures, powers, functions of government institutions, fundamental rights, directive principles of state policy as well as the fundamental duties for Indian citizens. The legal codes of three branches; legislature, executive and judiciary are described into very philosophical manner.

Indian Constitution as a supreme document of country imparts constitutional supremacy and not parliamentary supremacy. It was formed by a constitutional assembly rather than parliament and was accepted by the people of India with declaration in its preamble. So, the parliament cannot override constitution. Constitution of India was adopted by all Indian Constituent Assembly on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1949 and became effective on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950. The constitution declares India as a socialist, sovereign, secular and democratic republic with the philosophical standard of equality, liberty and fraternity for all.

The Indian Constitution is the longest constitution all over the world which is formed for a sovereign nation. At its original version, it had 395 articles in 22 parts and 8 schedules which contains several laws and provisions. At about 1,45,000 words, it is the second longest active constitution in the world after the constitution of Alabama.

Currently, The Indian constitution has preamble and 470 articles which are described into 25 parts. There is total 12 schedules and 5 appendices. It has been amended 104 times up to 2020.

Executive, Legislature and Judiciary are three branches of government derives their powers from constitution and are bound by the constitution. India is governed by parliamentary system of government with the direct aid of constitution in which the executive is directly accountable to legislature.

### **2.2 Article 51-a: Fundamental Duties**

According to The Constitution of India (The Gazette of India, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law and Justice) there are 11 fundamental duties describes into Article 51-a. Following is the list of fundamental duties described into Article 51-a:

It shall be the duty of every citizen of India

- a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;
- b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
- c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;
- d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;
- e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

- f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;
- g) to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures;
- h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform;
- i) to safeguard public property and to abjure violence;
- j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement;
- k) who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or, as the case may be, ward between the age of six to fourteen years;

The fundamental duties which were added into Indian Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976, in addition to create and promote culture, also, strengthen the hands of the legislature in enforcing these duties vis-a-vis the fundamental rights.

‘The Fundamental Duties in Indian Constitution are inspired by the constitution of erstwhile USSR.’  
(M. Laxmikanth, Indian Polity)

In compare to other democratic countries of world such as USA, Canada, France, Germany, Australia etc., India is the distinguish country to have such significant list of duties for its citizens.

### 3. Need for Fundamental Duties in Current Scenario

Respected former prime minister Indira Gandhi justified the inclusion of fundamental duties in the constitution and argued that their inclusion would help to strengthen democracy.

According to M. Lakxmikanth, Indira Gandhi said:

“The moral value of fundamental duties would be not to smother rights but to establish a democratic balance by making the people conscious of their duties equally as they are conscious of their rights.”

It is important to understand that no democratic system could ever succeed if the citizens are not willing to participate actively by discharging their duties which are expected to be done by them. Our Constitution has provided us with various rights and expects us to perform certain duties as a return. Article 51(A) talks about these Fundamental Duties and has 11 fundamental duties that are expected to be performed by the citizens It is required to protect the sovereignty of our nation. To maintain the unity and integrity of our nation fundamental duties play vital role. Rights and duties go hand in hand and cannot be separated at any cost. Fundamental duties and fundamental rights are two sides of a coin which we know that it can't be separated. Also, it is found as the need of the hour to introduce fundamental duties in our constitution. So that, as an Indian citizen, we should cherish our constitutional duties and try to fulfil fundamental duties into day-to-day life.

### 4. Analysis of Own Behaviour with Reference to Fundamental Duties

I consider myself as an educated responsible Indian citizen who is always prepare to endure the national duties and responsibilities. I am carefully aware about the importance of fundamental duties as most importance and interwoven task of my personal, social and professional life. I feel blessed to have an opportunity to endure my patriotism towards India by fulfilling fundamental duties in day-to-day life and behaviour.

I have analyzed my behaviour in three dimensions with respect to exploration of fundamental duties in my life. I am very conscious kind of citizen who has nationalist values. I may analyze my behaviour as an Indian citizen in following three dimensions with reference to fundamental duties:

#### 1. Behaviour in Personal Life and Endurance of Fundamental Duties

- I tend to promote common brotherhood as Indian among my friends, neighbors and relatives. I believe in secularism and fraternity with the philosophy of ‘Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam’ and such

beliefs have been reflected in my behaviour during the communication and life-discourse with the people around me.

- I am humanistic personality with adequate scientific temper and wishes for new reforms to remove many dark-sides of Indian society.
- As an Indian Citizen, I always try to promote collective development of the country.
- During the COVID-19 scenario, I prayed spiritually for entire human community apart from being a part of social service.

## 2. Behaviour in Social Life and Endurance of Fundamental Duties

- As very small part of the greatness of India, I am honored to constitutional values and nationalistic morals.
- I heartily respect the national anthem and national flag at personal and public places.
- As a responsible citizen, I always promote sovereignty, unity and integrity of India and have immense respect towards its rich heritage and culture. I always maintain safeguard to the public property and always abjure violence.
- As an Indian citizen, I am always ready to serve my nation physically and mentally. During COVID-19 scenario, I was performed various responsibilities for the betterment of the society.
- I try to make the people aware about the conservation of environment and national wealth by inspiring social programs and awareness campaigns.

## 3. Behaviour in Professional Life and Endurance of Fundamental Duties

- As a part of Teaching profession, I always keep my nation into the primary list of priorities and cherish all constitutional duties with conscious efforts.
- I helped to many people in rural India who were lost their jobs, lost their happiness as well as loss their state of mind due to COVID-19. I always try to explore humanism and emphatic behaviour towards the society.
- As a teaching personality of India, I am well aware about my responsibilities towards the society and nation. And I always try to be best citizen to endure the fundamental duties for prosperous life of the people of my country.

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