

**CHILDHOOD FACTS OF LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK****Prof. Geetali Tilak****Dept. of Journalism & Mass Communication****Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune****doi:10.48047/ecb/2023.12.si214****ABSTRACT**

Through this paper, the researcher has made investigations on the Childhood Facts of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his life by using prolific available data. Here the researcher has used the primary traits of Tilak's personality. After studies, he has estimated that childhood facts of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak were the critical elements in converting Bal Gangadhar Tilak to become a great Lokmanya and a spokesman of Swarajya. Many of us look at the legends and venerate them, but we ignore what it took to thrive. Using evocative records on different perspectives and the circumstances of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the researcher has estimated that the upbringing and behavior helped him in achieving a strong leadership position in the national independence movement. In addition to this, the study showed explicit factors like sound education, physical and emotional health, good interpersonal relations, and sovereignty determines the well-being of the fully grown personality. Sometimes

it is the result of various characters that unfolds over the life course.

**Keywords**

Birth, family background, education, interests, physical and emotional health, good interpersonal relations, and sovereignty.

**INTRODUCTION**

Certain factors like sound education, physical and emotional health, good interpersonal relations, and sovereignty determine the plusses to the adult. Sometimes it is the result of various characters that unfolds over the life course. The first few years of a child's life decides its future. To attain success, the child requires proper family culture, education, and a healthy atmosphere. The emotional, social, and physical development influences their overall personality development if we provide keen insights, then it is clear that the causal paths are connecting early childhood personality traits to adult outcomes (Roy Tathagata, 2012). While proof for such associations between childhood traits and adult outcomes,

various studies have been conducted in recent years.

Besides this, nativity, education, career, the quality of peer, family connections, nuptial consequences, and social behavior are the significant aspects of childhood that decide the future personality. Furthermore, these personality traits do not remain the same for every person and it may change over the time. While the association between personality and the social outcome are widely acknowledged, there was far less research done on the childhood of the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Through the current study, the researcher has clarified that certain things like culture, social factors, family background, etc., reform the personality. These factors play a crucial role and stay unaffected throughout life. Yet, the researcher has collected information and special pieces of evidence on the effect of the childhood traits on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's personality. Also, how his childhood has helped him to become a successful leader. The researcher has collected much information about Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak that he received pertinent and early learning setting. His father helped him in developing the foundations for thinking, behaving, and emotional well-being. Apart from this, Tilak developed linguistic, cognitive, social, emotional, and regulatory skills. All these skills helped him in the latter phase while functioning as a reformer and architect of modern India.

In the present paper, the researcher endeavors to scrutinize the different perspectives of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and his childhood. The study has been made to investigate the circumstances of his concerning lifetime events. It highlights the upbringing of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and his journey towards achieving a strong leadership position in the national independence movement. The concern of this paper was to examine the various aspects of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's childhood, which facilitate the fulfillment of the objectives of this paper.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The statement of the problem is "THE STUDY OF CHILDHOOD OF LOKMANYA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK".

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To find out the birth history of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
2. To understand the various childhood events of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
3. To find out the effectiveness of the childhood events on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak personality as Architect of Modern India

#### **Introduction**

'When you pay attention to the beginning of the story, you can change the whole story.' (Raffi Cavoukian, singer and founder of Canada's Centre for Child Honoring). Here is the proof of this thought that, in the person building process, both nature and nurture are

essential factors as they establish the foundation of a child's future and creates direct consequences for the individual and society (Dahmann Sarah & Anger Silke, 2014).

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a transcendent social reformer and the first well-known protagonist of the national independence movement. He was an ocean of knowledge and roused Indian citizens and encouraged them to understand the various concepts of modern India. He began the campaign for Swarajya and Swadeshi. He was the legend of his life and written an epic history that everyone in India knows, and played an essential role in the nation's ideology (Tilak Bal Gangadhar, 2011).

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one out of few jewels who agonized for the upliftment of this nation and dedicated their lives for the welfare of this country. He was famous because of his multi-faceted personality and who worked as a promoter of dharma and legal expertise. The researcher has attempted to highlight solely concerning things of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and his childhood. The researcher has attempted to comprehend the depth and the richness of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's legacy.

Through this research, the researcher has got the chance to find expression of deeply held convictions about the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, his childhood, and how it helped him to become a spirit of nationalism. The researcher seeks to understand Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's views on

various subjects and based on that information. The study was performed to create awareness among the younger generation of India. Also, the real purpose was to understand some unknown facets of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's personality. Also, the researcher has provided significant insights on multiple incidences and unique personality traits of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak from his birth to adolescence.

#### **METHOD USED IN THE PRESENT RESEARCH:**

To understand the childhood of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the researcher has checked and studied various pieces of literature available on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life. The authenticity of the learning has tested. Here, the researcher has used tools, and they are - books, letters, literature, study material available on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life. In addition to it, sufficient information on Tilak's family background and childhood environment characteristics has collected the persons from the Tilak family only.

The present research study was historical and descriptive, and it was based entirely on secondary data. The researcher intended to collect the information from various primary sources also. Apart from that, the researcher referred to many journals, newspapers, books, magazines, and scientific reports. Also, the researcher has applied to all the material that was available on the internet and websites.

**Need and importance of research**

The research study was conducted to create awareness among the younger generation by using Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's views on various subjects. The researcher's primary motto was to get to know some unknown facets of his personality.

- i. To understand and recognize selfless motives for the nation
- ii. To understand the sacrifices done by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak in childhood
- iii. To shed light on his utmost dedication towards the welfare of each individual
- iv. To reveal the importance of childhood education

**Implementation of research methodology**

The researcher has investigated and took valuable guidance from the research guide. Also, the researcher has equipped information from all the study material, literature for the pre-test purpose. The survey method was selected to cross-verify the authenticity of the data presented in the past time. The survey was conducted to collect info on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. That information was cross-verified by comparing it with the information given by the various selected members.

The researcher has selected a survey and interviewing method of sampling. The researcher has chosen that method only due to a shortage of time and effort. To execute the research, the researcher went to particular places where Lokmanya Bal

Gangadhar Tilak had spent his childhood. Also, the researcher interviewed various individuals who had a connection with the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Then the researcher selected a group of individuals from the Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak family itself for interviewing purposes.

**Our findings**

The collected data or information by the researcher was processed further. The data was edited, organized, and interpreted and verified to obey the purpose of this research work. For the validation or investigation of the assembled information, the researcher has used several reference materials. The researcher has collected the following information on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's childhood.

**Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's birth**

Children's are heroes who define the destinies of the countries as they wish or are themselves products of their situations (Bhagwat A.K. & Pradhan G.P, 2011). Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the leaders born with leadership talent. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born on July 23, 1856, in Ratnagiri. Tilak family named the child as Keshav, but he came to known by Bal his mother gave that name. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's was the second child and only son of Gangadharpant Ramchandra Tilak. Hence his birth was rejoicing event for Tilak family as there had been three daughters before Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. His mother, Parvati bai, was an intensely

religious woman and worshipped the sun, so that might be she blessed with a son.

### **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's family**

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's family was the Chitpavan Brahmin and mainly known for exceptional intellectual abilities and administrative qualities. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's family was originally from Chikhalgaon resided in Dapoli district in the Konkan region of Maharashtra.

At that time, the Tilak family was involved genuinely in the collection of octroi in Chikhalgaon. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's grandfather, Ramchandrapant, was a storekeeper of the Nanasaheb Peshwa before the struggles of 1857. While Gangadharpant was popularly known for his eminent learning's and knowledge of Sanskrit, and people used to call him Gangadhar Shastri. He was headmaster of a primary school, and in the later phase, he earned the position of Assistant Deputy Educational Inspector.

In 1866, when Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was nine years old, at that time, his mother died. Six years later from the death of mother, he lost his father too. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak continued 'Bal' name in the later life as perpetuate his mother's memory. In 1886, Gangadharpant shifted to Poona after the death of his wife. Then he wrote about two books, and among them, he wrote one on trigonometry and other on Marathi grammar.

All the points given above explains that Tilak family was known to be hardy,

practical, and industrious. Also, they liked to live their lives in a simple manner, and they were frugal in their habits. Both of his mother and father were the inspiration behind Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's religious as well as educational upbringing.

### **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's education**

The study says that most of the rule-breakers as children earn the higher level of satisfaction as an adult. The reason is that the rule-breaker beats own drum and has more self-determination, and hence such children deserve life satisfaction as compared to those who always followed the rules. Lokmanya Tilak was one among such rule-breakers. Here the researcher has given an example of Tilak's school time.

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak started his primary school in 1861, and before that, he received deep-rooted traditional learnings from his family. He received an orthodox primary education and made excellent progress in multiplication, tables, Sanskrit, and mathematics. He wonderfully followed his father's guidelines and the footprints. He had developed the natural aptitude to learn and earn proficiency in Sanskrit declensions and synonyms from the Amarkosha.

The study says that deliberate practice, longstanding commitment and genuine enthusiasm are the master keys to learn something. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a talented and quick learner from his childhood itself, and he showed

high academic inclinations and likings. Since school time, he thought that reading was the process of understanding concepts and not remembering. Due to this, he had never prepared notes and tried more to acquire knowledge.

As Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak has developed an interest in mathematics, he used to solve all the problems orally instead of writing steps or methods of problem-solving. His rebellious nature was not likely to be by his school teachers. However, his father was intensely proud of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Motivation is another skill that every child requires. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an elite performer who genuinely engaged and excited to learn new things. He dedicated his time and energy on practicing and improving learning skills. There was a time when Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak discovered various new perspectives and different angles. He tried to read multiple books that brought him in touch with some of the crucial things that helped him in the later phase of his life.

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak wanted to read Sana's 'Kadambari', and he requested his father to lend him a copy of it. Gangadharpant (Nana) gave him that book on a condition. Nana asked him to solve a knotty problem in arithmetic. He answered it correctly and won the prize and fulfilled the wish of reading that book.

In 1871, when Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was at the age of 15, he married to

Tapibai 11-year-old girl from the Bal family of Ladghar Tapibai's was renamed as Satyabhamabai after marriage. Her family was from the Konkan, and they were known for their hospitality and charitable deposition. At the time of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's marriage with Tapi (Satyabhama) Tilak's father trusted Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's brother-in-law so much that at the time of his death.

### **Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's love for bravery and independence**

Besides the academic performance and disciplined lifestyle, if the child has some positive attitude towards society and the nation, then it leads to excellent outcomes in later life as an adult. Here the researcher found certain things about Tilak's life. Things like sharing, interacting with others in school and society in a polite way. He was a brilliant student who dislikes injustice. He had an eagerness for freedom and defending ability. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak has independent opinions and a straightforward attitude (Inamdar N.R, 1983). All these qualities helped him to become the political leader.

As per the previous studies, it has been stated that understanding values knows the difference between what is right and wrong. When Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a child, he had developed that much knowledge about what is right and wrong. Here the researcher has explained a story-Tilak was in school, and his teacher wrongly charged him for eating groundnuts in the class. For that, he

punished and refused to accept the punishment and walked home with books and slate.

When he was in Poona High School, Sanskrit Shastri dictated the translation of a few Sanskrit verses to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's class. At that time, he refused to take it down, and then at the age of 12, he wrote the word in three different ways. His teacher denied accepting all the translations, then he complained to the headmaster and got full credit for it.

### **Life of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and India**

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak had honoured the place in Indian history as the maker of modern India. The performance of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak in India before 1947 has been widespread and amusing (Tahmankar D.V, 1956). Laos, he played an immense role in achieving freedom. The present experimentation had proved that Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first popular leader of the Independence Movement

Similarly, apart from the sovereignty campaign, he had contributed his efforts to restoring orthodox Hindu family traditions and culture. Along with that, he devoted his knowledge to produce Shudda Panchang [Almanac] (Brown D. Mackenzie, 2011). Also, he had written a book on diet plan for diabetic patient Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a person with remarkable intellect, and he proclaimed few research papers and articles in 'Kesari'. These articles are

contributing to and foundational dependencies of Indian studies. In nutshells, life journeys and the articles, books, and publications written by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak are still in use. And it will be useful to solve the versatile problems of modern India.

### **CONCLUSION**

This present study was performed solely to understand the childhood of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The entire study was aimed to explain his birth history, his family, and schooling, which had played a role in developing a role-model for India. Perhaps the most important goals of this research were to provide society with a culture of traditions and education. The researcher met goals basically on the culture and internalization of fundamental democratic values.

1. The ardent zeal of information, knowledge grabbed by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, was used for the concrete institutions and educations to propagate higher education among the nation.
2. He pioneered the movement for injustice in school time itself, and that helped him to broaden his knowledge.
3. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's thoughts and views on various aspects of life helped him to make political progress.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Here the researcher has concluded the paper with recommendations for future research.

- i. Through this study, it is estimated that family background, fundamental education reform the

- person's life as it makes a person more agreeable and more extroverted.
- ii. Besides this, marital outcomes and attainment in career and society are important in shaping adolescents' personalities.
  - iii. Not only personality, but it has also found that educational success and social behavior are linked to specific adulthood outcomes.
  - iv. As result of that information and studies we came to know that earliest years of child's life creates major impact on his future growth.
  - v. Having a healthy and happy childhood offers a child the qualities a person needs to have to be a virtuous human.
  - vi. Childhood learning and developed qualities decide the future of child and nation as well.
  - vii. Unfolding a child's personalities is a prime event that ensures their physical, emotional, or economic well-being.
  - viii. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak's upbringing and his massive love for freedom, independence produced a remarkable change not only in his school performance but in earning liberty for the country.

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