Methodology & Data collection:

Given the fact that the research would focus on interpersonal communication with reference to Gandhiji’s letters, data collection would be done primarily from his letters. The letters have been published in the book format named Collective Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG) by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Besides, data will also be collected from Gandhian writers, Communication Experts, Litterateurs’, Editors and philosophers through interview and questionnaires. For data on CMC, textual communication data would be collected from internet and mobile users to find the content of e-mails, SMSs etc., These data will then be subjected through extensive analysis. It would also be subjected through comparative analysis to gauge the effectiveness of Gandhiji’s letter vis-à-vis the present day communication mediums for interpersonal communication.

It is proposed to complete the research on the basis of ‘Content Analysis’ & data collection through questionnaire method. First the contents in Gandhiji’s letters i.e. the essence of the letters, use of literary tools for getting his points/ messages through, his use of words in the beginning as well as in the end of each letters etc., would be studied.

Given the fact that, Gandhiji had written several thousand letters during his life time and there are 100 volumes of his letters published as Collective Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG), it is proposed to study his letters on the basis of his letters to political leaders, to social activists, to freedom fighters, to foreign dignitaries, to litterateurs etc.. The researcher proposes to divide the Gandhian period into three broad categories i.e. 1. The period when he was in South Africa and faced with discrimination, initiated movement there i.e. from 1893 AD -1914 AD 2. The period following his return to India and his involvement in mass
movements and start of Salt Satyagraha i.e. from 1914 AD-1930 AD. The period when he was leading India’s freedom movement till his death i.e. from 1930 AD-1948 AD.

It is proposed to select 100 letters each from these three periods on the basis of systematic random sampling. After selection of the letters, they would be subjected to extensive qualitative analysis where contents of each letters would be thoroughly studied and analysed. In this process, focus will be on the use of addresses Gandhiji made at the beginning, the use of literary tools like phrases, Metaphors, Irony, Simile, Quotes, etc in the body parts of the letters and their context as well as how he sign-off his letters.

Similarly equal numbers of letters/ communications in the computer communication would be randomly selected from the websites and their contents would also be subjected to rigorous investigation in reference to the use of literary tools, the starting and ending of the letters. After the two studies, a comparative analysis between the findings from the study of Gandhiji’s letters and present day letters would be made. This content analysis study would however be substantiated by collection of data through interview from Gandhian philosophers and communication scholars.