



SOCIO ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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ABSTRACT

Socio environmental responsibilities are related to conservation and sustainability of our environmental condition so that Human race does not become extinct. Today Science & Technology also advocates that the answer lies in creating understanding through cultural approach. Sustainability is the capacity to endure. In ecology the word describes how biological systems remain diverse and productive over time. It is the sustainable provision of energy that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The four fundamental forces (Energy forms) are Gravity, the Electromagnetic force, and the Weak and Strong Nuclear forces. Any other forces are caused by one of these four fundamental forces or by a combination of them. SCIENCE and CULTURE share a complex relationship. Man's needs, desires and aspirations shapes SCIENCE, while CULTURE shapes man's social context. Modern man no longer regards Nature as being in any sense divine and feels perfectly free to behave towards her as an overwhelming conqueror. All cultures lays much emphasis on environmental ethics. We have to adopt the life style which will work for sustainable development and not otherwise as postulated by modern world.

Keywords: Social Environmental Responsibilities, Conservation & Sustainability , Religious/Dharma scriptures, Modernization ,Life style

INTRODUCTION

“Globalisation is a term that tries to capture the rapid economical ,social , political changes that is occurring simultaneously across a number of dimensions including communications and culture. Where social and cultural life can no

longer be seen as firmly located in particular places with clear boundaries.”

Rapid globalization has brought a radical change not only in the economic and technological order, but also in the mentalities and ways of conceiving the world. This new dimension requires a



redefinition of the type of actions and strategies to be established in order to preserve and promote cultural diversity, in particular at the time when new global markets are being formed .Although cross-cultural interactions have occurred throughout history, such contacts today radically differ in their nature and implications from those of the past.

Technology and culture share a complex relationship. Man's needs, desires and aspirations shape technology, while technology shapes man's social context. The effects of technology can be both intended and unintended. Unintended effects are usually unanticipated and often unknown before the arrival of a new technology. Nevertheless, they are as important as the intended effects (Merton, 1936). The most subtle effects of technology may go unnoticed unless carefully observed and studied. These may manifest themselves gradually in changes in the behaviours and outlooks of individuals, groups,

and even entire societies. Technologies do not change societies on their own, however, as they are linked to economic and ideological forces that are also relevant for shaping a given social totality. Of these non-technological forces, capitalism and its consumerist ideologies today have reached and permeated every major civilization worldwide. The result of this diffusion is that developing societies increasingly resemble Western nations in their values and outlooks. Thus, more and more emphasis is placed in these societies on acquiring material goods, wealth, and social status. Moreover, the more advanced a nation is in science, technology and economic wealth the more likely it will be touted as a role model for other nations, further compelling people in nations such as India to emulate those in the West.

Furthermore, capitalism, the dominant socioeconomic system in every Western country, supports a highly individualistic, self-centered ideology. Indian culture on the



other hand, stress that good human beings think of the welfare of others before their own. A Hindu's prayers are not only for himself/herself but for the peace of all nature, the whole world, and even the cosmos. The Indian tradition in fact considers those who think only of themselves and their self-interest as demonic and those who think of others' wellbeing as divine in disposition.

CULTURE is defined in simplistic manner as ' A way of life which is governed by pure rules and regulations which help any individual ,family ,society and nation to survive , sustain and develop on its own'. Culture touches and influences all areas of our life and also provides justification to all of our acts. It has direct influence on our life ,society ,nation and of course on the whole world. Culture does not only influence Physical ,Emotional , Intellectual but also Spiritual aspects of personality .The norms holds true for total canvas of life which we see and follow. Indian culture describes and propagates

basic values of life which are eternal truth (JivanMulya) which provides comforts to one and all.

VALUES (for life) are fundamental principals designed for the development of mankind. These principles are cosmic laws which governs the balance of the universe. These values are basis of all most all religions ,race or societies. The acceptance and implementation of these values provides platform for personal development which in turn contributes to overall progress of mankind. These values of life creates environment for survival ,sustenance and development of all species on this earth including human.

OBSERVATIONS

Indian culture is the oldest culture in the world having survived for last 7000 yrs. The best way in which Ancient Indian Culture has defined is sum in following lines

The knowledge of Indian Culture and it's influence world wide is being studies by Scholars all over the world who believe that



survival of humanity depends on inter relationship and interdependence in various cultures world wide. The translation of Indian literature and grantha's was practiced in past at various knowledge centres as per record of history of Europe ,middle east ,eastern countries. Indian culture has touched all aspects of life of individual ,family ,society and nation. It advocates the right approach and different dimensions towards life which will provide comfort and pleasure for each of us. The basic approach was "Vasudeva Kutumbakam". The Native American's is also has saying "We are all related" Indian culture state the perfect way of approach to life and i.e "DHARMA, ARTHA ,KAM AND MOKSHA". All others cultures only try to address the meaning of life in relation to Artha and Kam with little bit of salvation which does not provide answer to people world wide even remaining true to their religions and cultures..

Present world is facing huge problem of discontent in-spite of

modern ways of physical satisfaction. Every individual is craving for more and more without bothering about the effect of his greed on environment It is rat race and consequences will be faced by coming generation. We are observing continuous and discords among the people of country within and with other countries.. This is destroying social ,ecological balance to the extent of making the earth cycle erratic and off balance. We are facing various problems like depletion of Ozone layer , warming of earth atmosphere , contamination of natural water resources and exhausting fossil fuels. The main reason is excess Industrialisation through the world under the pretence of modern development for providing up gradation in life style of people. But this is widening the gap between Have's and Have not category of people through out the world. We can see the abuse of power and filthy richness due to excess of every thing on one side and suffering of millions of people in the same



region of country for want of basic needs like sufficient food ,clean water ,fresh air to live. It is very much necessary to overcome this greed for personal carnal satisfaction. We have to think beyond the physical satisfaction of one self and have balance approach towards our life and others as well.

Indian cultural approach is that every one on this earth has right to earn ,enjoy the life but within the boundaries laid down by Dharma and aiming for self realization i.e. Moksha. If we all follow the path and principles laid down by our ancestor with necessary modification suitable to customs and religious practices .This will provide peace of mind and salvation to every one in the world within their religion and culture. This is one of the reasons why Hinduism is seen more as a way of life than as a religion

DISCUSSIONS

The main complicated problems faced by our world can best be classified broadly in different categories as 1) Personal

and social problems , 2) Economical problem (disparity) 3) Religious problem (discord) 4) Environmental problem (Ecological balance) and 5) uncertainty of future .All the above mentioned problems or we can call as disorders can be resolved by following time proven principles . Let us discuss the conflicts mentioned above one by one and there solutions with the help of Indian Culture.

1) Personal and social problems :

With the advancement of Industrial culture which has influenced global life quite strongly and the adverse effects has been observed in last 50 years throughout the world. Instead of satisfying needs everybody has aspire to satisfy their wants and this has resulted in to unhealthy competition among the people ,societies and nations.. Self Identity is more important and everybody is highly sensitive about it. Due to this approach towards life, people of developed countries are facing lot of disorders in their life . The disorder is leading to



conflicts in family life , social life. The society at large facing problems like single parent family , drug addiction, unwed mothers , exploitation of women right from childhood under the pretext of freedom but actually treating them as commodity.

Indian culture has answer for all these problems and disorders prevailing in the world. The approach for life is based on Universalism. We place a high importance on Values, laws ,rules and obligations. We try to deal fairly with people on these aspects and at times rules come before relationship. Our culture give people autonomy to make their own decisions, respect others' needs when they make decisions ,have flexible approach in making decisions. We know it takes time to build relationships and get to know people so that we can better understand their needs.

A core system of values is essential. Hinduism has this core and it upholds no established canonical text or institution, and at different periods in its history

different systems of thought have been taken up by different gurus, saints and leaders, each of whom felt that the earlier system was in some way inadequate or had become rigid or corrupted.

Economical problem (disparity)

:The problems stalking the global economy are multiple and interconnected. The most pressing challenges are the continued jobs crisis and the declining prospects for economic growth, especially in the developing countries . Uncertainty and instability in international financial, currency and commodity markets, coupled with doubts about the direction of monetary policy in some major developed countries, are contributing to a gloomy outlook for the world economy and could present considerable risks for the developing world. Market liberalization and privatization in the commodity sector have not resulted in greater stability of international commodity prices. There is widespread dissatisfaction with the outcomes of unregulated financial and commodity markets,



which fail to transmit reliable price signals for commodity producers. In recent years, the global economic policy environment seems to have become more favourable to fresh thinking about the need for multilateral actions against the negative impacts of large commodity price fluctuations on development and macroeconomic stability in the world economy.

We have to ask the question to ourselves that can we provide the solutions based upon our knowledge derived from our past principles of economics . The obvious answer is yes. The simple way of looking and solving the current problems are creating self sustaining systems at micro level which will take care of Micro level. Mahatam Gandhi, has suggested the self reliance and self sustainable model which must be implemented at village level . He was referring to old economy theory postulated by our great thinkers and economist who have time tested theories for facing most of the problems from filthy reach to

acute shortage of live hood . The India was very reach country till 18th century and having business interaction through out the world right from Greek ,Romans , Egyptians and Maya, Inka civilization of central America..The model was very simple which was based on skills of individual which mastered through generations together . I am sure the world over crises of economical situation can be addressed.

Religious problem (discord) :

Freedom of religion is a principle that supports the freedom of an individual or community, in public or private, to manifest religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance. The concept is generally recognized also to include the freedom to change religion or not to follow any religion. The freedom to *leave* or *discontinue* membership in a religion or religious group is also a fundamental part of religious freedom, covered by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Freedom of religion



is considered by many people and nations to be a fundamental human right

Today's world is facing very serious issue of religious divide throughout various Nations. The Identity Crises is the main reason behind this situation. Intolerance and disbelief among different religion along with desire of supremacy is leading to present major crises where by problems like terrorism , ethnic violence and genocides faced by all most all nations right from developed, developing and also under developed countries. What we are observing is Human rights violations , Workplace discrimination , Marginalization and negative stereotyping and also Hate crimes.

The concept of progressive revelation which states that over the history of humanity's existence. This accounts for the differences in social laws that can be found between religions, which cater to the differing needs and social structures of human society over the ages. The world that we

live in today, just like human society of the past, has its own unique needs and circumstances. It is a sad and undeniable truth that religion has, far too often, been the cause for war. Apart from the destruction to human life and society that religious conflict has caused the stopped the development as it needs harmony. It's the mentality of "If I'm right, you must be wrong. If you're right, I can't be right as well". leads to disputes between religions .Religion should unite all hearts and help to remove the causes wars and disputes from the face of the earth. It should give birth to spirituality, and bring light and life to every soul. The Hindu Dharma believes that all religions come from the same source, and that each religion was just as perfectly suitable and complete for the society it was revealed to as the other, it is possible to truly appreciate the divine origin of each religion without denying the divine origin of another. "Ekam Sat BhaudaVadanti' is the principle of Indian Culture.



Environmental problem

(Ecological balance) :The variety of life on Earth, its biological diversity, is commonly referred to as biodiversity. The number of species of plants, animals, and microorganisms, the enormous diversity of genes in these species, the different ecosystems on the planet, such as deserts, rainforests and coral reefs are all part of a biologically diverse Earth. Appropriate conservation and sustainable development strategies attempt to recognize this as being integral to any approach. In some way or form, almost all cultures have recognized the importance of nature and its biological diversity for their societies and have therefore understood the need to maintain it. Yet, power, greed and politics have affected the precarious balance. Rapid global warming is affecting an ecosystem's chances to adapt itself naturally. Preserving species and their habitats is important for ecosystems to self-sustain themselves. The climate is changing. The earth is warming

up, and there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening and it is human-induced. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. Many scientists have agreed that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. Recent years show increasing temperatures in various regions, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns.

Major current environmental issues may include climate change, pollution, environmental degradation, and resource depletion etc. The people are working through conservation movement for protection of endangered species and protection of any ecologically valuable natural areas. Environmental issues are addressed at a regional, nation or international level by government, NGO organisations. Sustainability is the key to preventing or reducing the effect of environmental issues. For humans



to live sustainably, the Earth's resources must be used at a rate at which they can be replenished. The Indian culture and The native American has saying that “ Earth is not gifted to us but it is a loan from next generation ‘. So use the resources judiciously and do not abuse as if you are owner .

5) UNCERTAINTY OF FUTURE

:The individual and society were viewed as two complementary and incomplete entities tied to a relationship of mutual obligations, a commitment which was essential to ensure the well-being of all. Those who are acting as the guardians of society and worked out the delicate nuances and detailed network of the social order were neither concerned about, nor even conscious of, the concept of human rights in full form.

The struggle for human rights essentially reflects the concerns and requirements of modern human being whereas the cultural values operated in a traditional context where many of the agencies which at present

account for the violation of human rights norms were not known. Since human rights is basically a problem between authority and the individual it is essential to examine the Indian understanding of the origin of authority.

In present world of Globalisation the most important factor is approach for GLOBALIZATION AND HOMOGENIZATION. Today a homogenization of cultures is necessary at the cost of , denying the individual the freedom to make informed choices. But Homogenization is contrary to the natural impulses of mankind. All individuals desire to identify with a common culture and yet retain their individual identities of region and customs. The unity in diversity concept is especially true of India. Existing cultures are threatened by the rapidity of change and there is no time to assimilate and integrate and yet retain individual regional identities and cultures. In India, the religious, aesthetic, and social life



spheres traditionally formed a cohesive whole.

CONCLUSION

India's cultural canvas is large and mosaic and its heritage runs into several centuries. It is right to conclude that such a complex and varied culture would provide positive values. In modern era Ramakrishna Paramahansa was a great champion of religious freedom or the right to freedom of thought, conscience and belief. To drive home this point, he even experienced the teachings of other forms of religious belief such as Islam and Christianity. Swami Vivekananda sought to interpret the Hindu spiritual concepts in the light of modern rationality and progressivism.

However, one thing that is very important and will provide some respite and solutions to global disorder is **values of Life . The important ones are Tyaga (renunciation), dana (liberal giving), nishtha (dedication), satya (truth), ahimsa (non-violence) and upeksha (forbearance) are the**

foundations for the Indian values system.

Following are the few examples that you see very commonly in India and of great important in global context are 1) **Respect for parents and Elders**2)**Family orientation.**3)**Sacrifice and adjustment.**4)**Importance to Education**5) **Trust in Institution of Marriage**

The duty-first value system is an important positive aspect of Indian culture which needs to be highlighted. A continuous interaction and exchange of ideas would go a long way in dispelling many of the misgivings which ultimately result in violent and abnormal human behaviours. A culture of human rights cannot flourish in an unilateral way. One cannot have just rights and no duties and responsibilities towards society. Similarly one should not be expected to go on shouldering only the responsibilities of the burdens of society.

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