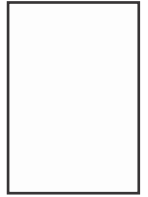


## A VISION FOR UNIVERSAL HUMAN EDUCATION

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Every Human Being aspires to be happy. All his efforts are toward this end. The outcome from his efforts depends on the focus of the effort, specifically on his notions about happiness. When these notions are right, the outcome is mutual happiness. When the notions are wrong, the outcome is unhappiness.



The purpose of education is to establish right understanding in the human being so that by a certain age, the individual is able to gain clarity about happiness and the programs to ensure it. The process which enables a human being to lead a happy life in continuity regardless of region, caste, creed, gender, race etc. can be termed as Universal Human Education. Such an education only can lay the foundation of an undivided society and universal human order, which all of us are looking for.

Today, with different people having different notions of happiness, one can observe the mixed result at an overall global level in spite of significant material gains, there is increasing strife in family and society as well as damage of nature leading to significant and potentially irreversible climate change.

All this is happening in spite of the best of intentions, so the question this raises is “Have we really understood our basic aspiration”?

### **Basic Human Aspiration**

On closer observation, we can see that every human being aspires for a way of life which ensures happiness for all human beings living in harmony with nature.

At an individual level, happiness is harmony and integration among all four dimensions within the self - Thought, Behaviour, Work and Realization.

At the level of society, individuals aspire to ensure harmony and integration among four levels - Individual, Family, Society and Nature.

This is the aspiration; this is the desire, this is the innate need of every human being, regardless of age, gender, caste, creed, nation and beliefs.

To gain clarity on this, let us ask ourselves some questions about each aspiration, about “How I want to live” what is written on the left OR what is written on the right in the table below. In this process, we will also get clarity on “How I am living now”.

We can ask ourselves “Do I want fulfillment at all four dimension and all four levels?” OR “Do I just want to ensure Accumulation of wealth, that too Unlimited at the Individual level?”

OR <u>As an Individual</u> <b>Four Dimensions</b>	Thought ↓	Behaviour ↓	Work ↓	Realization ↓	Work ↓ Physical Laws (Existence) ↓ Accumulation of Wealth (unlimited!)
	All Encompassing Solution(resolution) ↓ Happiness in the Self	Justice ↓ Mutual Happiness	Physical Laws ↓ Mutual Prosperity	Reality ↓ Continuity of Happiness	
<u>As a Society</u> <b>Four Levels</b>	All Encompassing Solution (Right Understanding) ↓	Prosperity ↓	Fearlessness (Trust) ↓	Co-Existence ↓	Accumulation of Wealth (unlimited!) ↓ In Individual (Every?)
	In Every Individual	In Every Family	In Society	In Nature	

First: As an individual four dimensions:

1. **In Thought** To have clarity (a state of resolution or solution) OR confusion (a state of problem)?
2. **In Behaviour** To have just i.e. mutually fulfilling behavior with other human beings, resulting in mutual happiness OR to have unjust behavior with other human resulting in domination of some over others?
3. **In Work** Adherence to physical laws with rest of Nature by cyclic mode of production, resulting in mutual enrichment, prosperity for human beings as well as protection of rest of nature OR exploitation and indiscriminate extortion of the rest of nature?
4. **In Realization** Assurance and authenticity of having known the truth, of having understood the reality, resulting in continuity of happiness OR lack of realization leading to mere belief or assumption of it?

Similarly, as a society at four levels of human existence:

1. **In Every Individual** All encompassing solution, a state of right understanding leading to happiness and self satisfaction is desirable in every individual or a state of confusion leading to unhappiness and dissatisfaction? OR having a state of right understanding in some individuals will do and rest can follow them?
2. **In Every Family** Prosperity, capacity to produce more than what is required as physical facilities for the family leading to a feeling of having more, is desirable in every family OR Deprivation, a feeling of having less than required, regardless of how much has been accumulated (through production or exploitation)
3. **In Society** Fearlessness, Trust, feeling of being related to the others is desirable OR a feeling of mistrust, a feeling of being in opposition to others leading to fear? Undivided society based on this feeling of trust (acceptance of relationship with every one) is desirable OR a society divided into sects, cast, creeds, races, nations opposing and fighting each other?
4. **In Nature** Co- Existence, a relationship of mutual fulfillment of human being with rest of the three orders of nature leading to prosperity in human being as

well as protection and enrichment of rest of nature is desirable OR indiscriminate exploitation of rest of the nature leading to threat of the very existence of Earth?

### **The State Today**

What are we doing now<sup>\*1</sup>?

Are we ensuring the fulfillment of all these four dimensions of personal existence or we are we just focusing on work to ensure accumulation of physical facilities (called wealth), that too without deciding how much of it is required (it is implicitly assumed that it is unlimited! do we really need unlimited amount of any physical facility?). Also this Accumulation of physical facilities is being done without ensuring mutual fulfillment (through cyclic mode of production), resulting in resource depletion and pollution.

Are we ensuring the fulfillment of all these four levels of human existence or we are just focusing on Individual to ensure accumulation of unlimited physical facilities for him, without deciding how much of it is required? This too is being done for selected group, in terms of class, nation etc. and not for every individual (It is implicitly assumed that benefits will slowly percolate to everybody!).

With the limited one dimensional approach taken by us, we have arrived at the following situation:

**At the level of individual:** We see today that human beings on the one hand suffer from unhappiness, dissatisfaction, a sense of purposelessness or futility, tension, frustration, depression even suicide and on the other hand show the signs of domination, violence, crime, terrorism etc. The body health is steadily declining in spite of improved levels of material and medical facilities. A majority of people find themselves engulfed in problems of one type or the other, and some people have even come to believe that no solution is ever possible.

**At the level of family:** One finds that in family, among the members, there is complaints, fights, inter- personal tensions, injustice and hatred. Numerous attempts are made to solve these, but invariably it leads to disintegration. Reason for all these is ultimately assigned to lack of sufficient material facilities (a feeling of being deprived), without ever deciding how much is going to be sufficient in terms of physical facilities.

**At the level of society:** Problems are visible in the form of poverty and unemployment on the one hand and division, discrimination, exploitation, opposition, struggle, and war on the other hand. There are talks of cooperation with each other, but they end up in one form of exploitation or other.

**At the level of nature:** Problems manifest in the form of ecological disturbances (seasonal imbalance, pollution) and lack of natural resources. Air, water, soil and food are getting increasingly poisonous. Fertility of the soil is reducing. The problem of water shortage is deepening. The nutritional value of food is decreasing. Ecological imbalances have resulted into global warming (heating up of the earth), heralding larger problems and disasters soon.

On the one hand, many breakthroughs and wonders are being made by modernity, science and technology; while on the other, man still remains an unknown and unrelated to himself and other human being. Today, human being has become the biggest source of problem for human being. The possibility of war between two nations, terrorism, fear of fights and violence within nation states and corruption tiring out the daily lives of human beings has increased. Ecological imbalance, chemical fertilizers and pesticides and sedentary lifestyles are making the body weak and prone to diseases.

The ultimate result of all this is that suffocation in individuals, disintegration in society and damage to the environment are on the rise. Man is thus getting isolated and lonely. Getting isolated is more fearsome than any other scarcity.

We can now clearly see the problem. We can ask ourselves 1) if we are aware of this state 2) if this state is what we want 3) if we continue our effort in the same direction, will it fulfill our

(Human) aspirations.

If one looks at these conditions a little deeply, it seems that man has not even been able to rightly recognize his needs so far. Today's prevailing materialism has made us to believe that unlimited acquisition of physical/material facilities is the ultimate aim of human being. Entire culture, science, technology, education and nation states are being applied to ensure this. As a result, every human being is being engaged in this. Material acquisition has become the aim for a man's thought, behavior, work and realization, without even bothering to find out how much material facility is required for an individual, family and society.

While man's need to live, to survive has been recognized as a primary need, the need to live in perennial happiness, in a state of no-conflict, to live with knowledge, has not yet been recognized as a basic human need.

The reality is that to live with knowledge is an innate and basic need of human. It is only on the basis of knowledge that man is able to live in harmony within him and in harmony with the larger organization (other humans and rest of nature). Otherwise, he lives in a way purely based on what he has ended up assuming (which may or may not be so in reality, i.e. may right or wrong).

In the absence of knowledge, absence of a resolution (*samadhan*), man is unable even to correctly recognize as to how much material/physical facilities is required. As a result, he is unable to feel prosperous in spite of having excessive amount of physical facilities/wealth. He keeps getting stuck into a vicious circle of trying to accumulate unlimited facilities/wealth.

On studying Nature, we find that it consists of 4 orders Material Order (soil, air, metals...), Pranic Order (plants, trees...), Animal Order (animals, birds...) and Human Order (human beings). There is relatedness and interdependence amongst all the four orders. That the relationship is one of mutual fulfillment & mutual enrichment is clearly observable amongst the first three orders. In a forest, for example, trees, animals and soil all get enriched one's enrichment is not at the cost of any one. These three orders are fulfilling for human beings also. While human beings have natural acceptance for being fulfilling for other human beings as well as the other three orders, they are not able to be fulfilling.

Further we can observe that every unit in the first three orders has a definite conduct. A piece of iron has definite conduct, a *neem* tree has definite conduct, and a cow has definite conduct. It is only human beings that have indefinite conduct.

On studying existence and place of man in it, it becomes evident that these problems are not innate to existence or nature. These are due to absence of right understanding in man and fulfillment in relationships between human beings; i.e. problems are manifested by man. If man is the cause/source of the problems or if man is the carrier of problems, then the cause/source and carrier of solutions would also have to be man.

The conduct of units in the material order is based on their constitution, the conduct of units in the pranic order is based on their seed, the conduct of units in the animal order is based on their breed. The conduct of human beings is based on their education-*sanskar*.

More specifically, human beings' conduct (recognizing & fulfilling) depends on their assuming (assumptions about reality). If the assumption is wrong then conduct will be wrong and indefinite. If assumption is right then conduct will be right and definite. Assumptions can be based on knowing (reality as it is) or not based on knowing (an assumption about reality which is not necessarily so). If the assumption is based on knowing (There can be only one right assumption about the one reality) then the assumption is right otherwise one is not sure.

Due to lack of right understanding, or due to incorrect assumptions, the human order does not have definite conduct and is not yet able to ensure mutual fulfillment. This can be seen in the form of problems such as pollution, resource depletion, and extinction of animals, global warming and threats to human race on earth.

We can ask ourselves “which fear is predominant?” a) fear of Wild Animals, b) fear of Natural Calamities and c) fear of the Inhuman Conduct of Human Beings.

This fear of the other human being is on account of his indefinite (inhuman) conduct. It can not only be recognized as global terrorism or fear in society, but also in everyday interaction with even the closest relatives “we don't know how our own child will react or our own father will react...”.

Attempts so far to free ourselves of these problems, have been predominantly on physical facilities and have not placed right human understanding and responsibility of human beings at the center. The result is that we have not been able to live in harmony (within oneself and with entire existence) and form a human tradition on the basis of these attempts.

### **The Vision for Universal Human Order**

This is a proposition about the innate harmony in existence. It can be evaluated and understood within the self. At the root is a holistic, and all encompassing detailed view of reality at every level of existence, from Individual to Family, Society and Nature/Existence that the existence is innately co-existence (harmony, order) and not a chaos or disorder; and Man just needs to understand this co-existence and align with the innate order in the existence.

On the basis of attempts made by a few of us since 1995 in the form of work, behavior and participation in our society, we have now begun to feel that it is necessary and possible to have a harmonious inter-relationships in the four dimensions (thought, behavior, work and realization), four levels (self, family, society and nature) and 10 steps (family to world family); that such a possibility comes naturally since harmony (self-organization) is inherently there in existence, one does not have to create it. Existence is in harmony (self-organization) itself, is organized in itself. The harmony (self-organization) is the form of co- existence, and every human being can understand this harmony, and after having understood it so, can live in harmony within himself and in harmony with the larger organization around him.

Living on the basis of this harmony (co-existence) results into:

**At the level of individual:** Right understanding (resolution) is ensured in every human being. This resolution inherently manifests in human talent as- knowledge (of self, existence and human conduct), wisdom (identification of human goals) and science (process of achieving human goal) and in human expression as- behavior, work and participation in the larger order. The possibility of an undivided society, holistic natural order and human tradition becomes clear as one lives according to the right understanding.

**At the level of family:** Resolution in each member of the family, mutually fulfilling relationships and prosperity in family are ensured. It becomes possible to identify the physical needs of the family on the basis of the right understanding and members of the family are able to produce (in a recyclable manner) more than the family's requirements for physical facilities and experience the feeling of prosperity. There is enough scope in nature for this kind of effort, and enough capacity and scope in the human being for putting in these efforts. A prosperous family is able to fulfill the its physical needs of an and also help out other families, hence, one establishes a relationship of mutual fulfillment, instead of exploitation of other families in this manner.

**At the level of society:** Self-organization in society, emerging out of such families, has five dimensions- education-right values (*sanskar*); health-restraint; production-work; exchange-storage; justice-security. Such self- organization ensures the fulfillment of human goals of *samadhan* (complete resolution), prosperity, fearlessness and co- existence. The possibility of realization of this holistic, all encompassing self- organization from an individual to family to world family seems very natural.

**At the level of nature:** The human being, living with complete resolution, relationships and

prosperity lives in a mutually fulfilling manner with the remaining three orders (Material order = Soil, water, air, etc; Plant Order = plants and shrubs, etc; Animal order = birds and animals) thus ensuring his prosperity and the enrichment, protection and right utilization of the remaining three orders.

Man living in complete resolution, prosperity, fearlessness and co-existence at all these four levels, is able to be satisfied in all his four dimensions- satisfaction in thought by way of complete resolution, satisfaction in behavior by way of mutually fulfilling relationships, prosperity in work by way of enrichment and protection of the remaining natural order, and bliss (continuity of happiness) by way of realization (knowing) the reality, the existence as co- existence. It thus becomes possible that this satisfaction is being expressed and established in individual, family and all ten steps (family, .. village,... nation, world family) of human order. On the basis of the success that we have been able to get in the past ten years through this understanding, behavior and work; and the enthusiasm that stems from it, we thought it appropriate to share and start a dialogue with you on the necessity, possibility and naturality of this human order.

### **Programs Emerging out of the Vision for Universal Human Order**

The programs emerging out of the above vision are listed below:

- I. People's Education Program (*Lok Shiksha Yojna*)
- II. Education-Sanskar Program (*Shiksha Sanskar Yojna*), and
- III. Undivided Family and Universal Human Order Program (*Akhand Parivar aur Sarvbhaum Vyavastha Yojna*)

The **People's Education Program** is meant for the people who could not avail the program for right understanding in childhood. This is carried out through workshops, seminars, discussions, etc. Presently, such workshops are being organized for all sections of the society, including educationists, software professionals, village people, prisoners, lawyers, people from government, businessmen, social workers, etc. In the workshop, the content of right understanding is presented to the participants through simple propositions, and they are facilitated to verify the propositions at the level of their natural acceptance, without drawing any inference from any external source, be it a text or notion or saying or a person. In this process, the individual becomes aware of the needs of the body and the self, the feelings innate to every relationship, and the mutual fulfillment that he desires with every unit of nature.

This process prepares the base, in the form of teachers and responsible people who would be competent to facilitate the program for human education-*sanskar*.

The **Education-Sanskar Program** is meant for the children so that by a certain age, they are able to ensure the right understanding and right living.

Education is essentially to develop the understanding of the harmony or order or *vyavastha* at all levels of our living – from self to the entire existence. *Sanskar* includes the commitment, preparation and practice of right living. The preparation includes learning the skills and technology for right living. This leads to living in harmony at all levels from self to the entire existence.

If a child does not go through education-*sanskar*, he/she is driven to live with animal consciousness under one's own pre-conditionings or sensation-led living practices.

On the other hand, if a child goes through education-*sanskar*, he would be able to:

- a) With human beings: live with justice\*<sup>2</sup>. This will ensure a peaceful society free of struggle, envy, wars, destruction
- b) With the rest of nature: live with mutual enrichment. This will enable the fulfillment of all human beings' material needs and ensure enrichment of the rest of nature. It will stop pollution, resource depletion, deforestation, extinction of animals and birds, man induced havoc in nature, global warming, etc.

Education-*sanskar* is the collective responsibility of parents, teachers and the responsible people

of society at large. Once established in the society, it will start from the family through parents. Through interactions with parents, the child will get sensitized to the human feelings, conduct and skills, and this process will get substantiated and accomplished through the regular program provided institutionally.

With program for people's education and education-*sanskar* in place, **Program for Undivided Family and Universal Human Order** can be envisaged. The children along with responsible adults prepared through the above two programs can own responsibilities for the program for integrated and synergetic societal order targeted at harmony from family to world family. As the harmony in the society starts from harmony in the family, the family is the basic building block of a society extended to the world family. It is by ensuring happiness and prosperity in the family that fearlessness in the society and co-existence in the nature are ensured.

There are five dimensions of a synergetic society: education-*sanskar*, health-*sanyam*, production-work, justice-protection and exchange-storage. Programs enabling harmonious functioning in all the dimensions are required for sustainable development of a society. Working in this direction, the society will function harmoniously and get organized in the ten steps of family- family cluster-village-village cluster ...-world family.

In the past fifteen years, a number of people have come across the above mentioned programs across different parts of the country, and slowly programs are getting matured in diverse dimensions. People have come to understand the importance of natural farming, nature cure of diseases, social systems promoting mutually fulfilling exchange of goods produced and preservation of nature. With the help of social groups, holistic technologies and production systems are being promoted in villages and cities. Some establishments have also come up which are working at the foundational level to help emerge a new society based on trust and mutual fulfillment.

### **Steps of Transition for the Present Educational Institutions to Ensure Universal Human Education**

Universal Human Education comprising of people's education and education-*sanskar* forms the basis of the process to ensure Universal Human Order.

An appraisal of the present education system reveals that the courses are focused at learning of technologies, production systems and management techniques targeted at generation and accumulation of more and more physical facilities, not giving due importance to the happiness of the individual and the harmony in family, society and nature.

The responsibility for ensuring human education-*sanskar* is that of the parents, the teachers as well as society. During the period of transition from the present state to the desired state, the most significant responsibility is that of the teachers. Therefore, the education-training of teachers is of primary importance, so that they understand the co-existence, the universal human order and live accordingly. For this, people's education is required (essentially, people's education is for the grown-ups for understanding co-existence, living in co-existence). Through people's education, in addition to teachers being prepared, parents and responsible people of society who understand universal human order and live accordingly will also be developed.

To initiate a holistic program for education at such a stage, a detailed roadmap needs to be worked out by each institution and implemented step-wise. A brief layout for the transition, at the level of educational institution, to reach the coveted goal from where our education system stands today, can be envisaged in the following 8 steps:

- Step 1: Introduce a foundation course on Universal Human Values in parallel with other courses with a view to initiate the process of self-exploration, leading to right understanding (*gyan*). i.e. introduce right understanding and right feeling in the academic curriculum. Higher level courses may be offered in addition to the foundation course. Social projects, social internship and conducting the course as an integrated workshop may take place wherever the teacher is well prepared. This will ensure better grasping and comprehension by the students
- Step 2: Align the academic curriculum (all courses) in the institution with right understanding, leading to thought about all encompassing resolution (*samadhan*), so as to establish Value Based Education at the level of the institution
- Step 3: The lifestyle and institute culture reflects Value Based Living. i.e. on the basis of right understanding and right feeling, behavior, work
- Step 4: The institute develops into a live model of living with happiness and prosperity, i.e. on the basis of right understanding and right feeling, behavior, work and participation in the institution order. Programs for self-sufficiency of the institution through cyclic & mutually enriching production activities and take such activities to a scale where all the faculty, staff and students can be supported internally. This will help transform the institution into a family participating with self-responsibility for a cohesive harmonious journey toward excellence for all
- Step 5: The institute becomes a nodal center to share and promote value education and value based living in the local community. Institution works on all 5 dimensions
- Step 6: The institute becomes a resource centre for the district level. The Institution works in collaboration with other institutions for all 5 dimensions
- Step 7: The institute becomes a resource centre for the National level
- Step 8: The institute becomes a resource centre for Undivided Human Society and Universal Human Order

During the past eight years, significant efforts have been made in introducing Value Education into the curriculum of technical education. Starting with IIT-Hyderabad in 2005, by 2013, Value Education is a core curricular subject in 28 universities in 5 states in India and Bhutan. The results are quite encouraging and support the validity of the views taken above.

Based on all the progress so far, realization of the holistic possibility seems real we just need to understand and participate.



## SUM UP

1. Every human being aspires for a way of life which ensures continuous happiness and prosperity.
2. Universal Human Education is the process which enables all human beings to fulfill this aspiration.
3. In the process of development in the modern world so far, man has not even been able to rightly recognize this aspiration and efforts are primarily on for unlimited acquisition of physical facilities. This has led to multiple problems at the level of individual, family, society and nature.
4. On studying existence and place of man in it, it becomes evident that nature/existence is in harmony and the problems are not innate to existence or nature – these are due to absence of understanding of this harmony in man.
5. To ensure right understanding in man and establish a human tradition to live with this understanding for all, value education input is a proposition, which has to be evaluated and understood within the self and to be lived as an expression of this understanding, in terms of behaviour, work and participation in the larger order.
6. The possibility of realisation of this holistic, all encompassing self-organization from an individual to family to world family seems very natural. The efforts made in the last fifteen years in this direction instill a confidence that this goal can be realized on earth.
7. The programs emerging out of the vision for universal human order can be categorized into three – people's education, education-*sanskar* and undivided family & universal human order.
8. Education is essentially to develop the understanding of the harmony or *vyavastha* at all levels of our living – from self to the entire existence. *Sanskar* includes the commitment, preparation and practice of right living. The preparation includes learning the skills and technology for right living.
9. The present educational institutions can ensure their participation in ensuring universal human education for all through an eight-step transition.
10. The course on Universal Human Values and Professional Ethics is a foundation course in the eight-step process of transition. This course will need to be augmented with higher level courses wherein the holistic alternative can be further researched and explored in all the dimensions of human living.

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\*1 To live with left (fulfillment of all four levels and dimensions of human existence) is to live with human consciousness and to live with right (fulfillment of physical needs by accumulation of material facilities alone) is to live with animal consciousness. The way to ensure development of consciousness from animal consciousness to human consciousness is what the course on Human Values and Professional Ethics is working for.

\*2 Justice is the recognition of human-human relationship, and its fulfillment, leading to mutual happiness.

\*3 Human Value is the participation of human being in the harmony at the level of individual, family, society and nature