

Abstract of the Paper for
THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SEMIN ON
Gross National Happiness:
“Rethinking Development: Local Pathways to Global Wellbeing”

**HINDU OPERATIONAL METHODOLOGY FOR ACHIEVING
GLOBAL WELL-BEING**

By
Prof. B. Kishor
National Vice President
Vijnana Bharati

We are living in a world of science and technology. Artifacts and devices of modern day technology have totally changed the men's operational environment. The cost of these technological changes in terms of consumption of natural resources and degradation has been enormous. Man is adding, everyday, a new source of environmental pollution. Man is mimicking machines. As a consequence of it man forgot to even think about the environment of which he is integral part

Warning signals are being felt throughout the world. It appears that we are heading towards an ecological disaster. The world at large has become aware of the impending danger. Therefore there is a need to explore an alternative methodology which can avert the danger which is looming large on the mankind and provide, IN REALITY, the mankind the mirage like phenomenon called HUMAN HAPPINESS.

Is there a methodology? For it we may turn to India and its ancient Vidyas. Hindu philosophy and action plan provides many pathways for averting the impending danger and provide the humanity its much sought HAPPINESS. This paper describes the Great Hindu Vidyas taken from Chhandogya Upanishad.

A document was published by eminent scientists of the world on 18 November 1992. This document was signed by 1575 scientists (including 100 Noble Laureates) from all over the world was published in the Atlanta Journal (U.S.A.). It says: “We want to give an emergency warning to the entire humanity. We are fast approaching a horrible situation. This warning is no exaggeration. Severe global environmental damage is seriously endangering our ecology. If nothing is done to rectify this situation then this planet will not be able to sustain life.”

Based on wrong interpretation of some very sound science principles man has created a climate which is poised to destroy the human society.

In order to understand the cause of this horrible situation we shall have to go back to the beginnings of industrial revolution. This industrial revolution can be related to the result of one invention: the invention of the Carnot cycle of thermodynamics. It is not the bicycle but a theoretical sequence of events arranged in a cyclic order. The related events executed in order are: process of induction of working fluid; process of compression of working fluid; process of expansion of the working fluid; and the process of the expulsion of used working fluid. Processes of compression and expansion take place inside a hypothetical engine. During the induction process the working fluid is drawn into the cylinder from outside and during the process of exhaust the used working fluid is emptied into the "SINK". This sink is the atmosphere. Sadi Carnot, the inventor of the Carnot cycle, assumed this sink to be of infinite size. It is this sink into which all exhausts are emptied. As the industrial revolution picked up momentum, this concept of infinite sink gained universal acceptance in all technological developments. Thereafter man started using all types of natural places like rivers, wastelands, oceans and what not as infinite sink. It is only, now, that the man has started realizing that the assumed "INFINITE SINK" is in reality a "FINITE SINK". It is this single concept of infinite sink that has been responsible for the pollution of our environment. With the passage of time the rate of increase of pollution has witnessed an exponential growth resulting in the present day havoc on earth.

Man possesses an insatiable desire to lead a perfectly comfortable living environment. Technology provided means to achieve this state. We have coolers and air-conditioners; heaters and heating systems; automatic kitchen appliances; furnishings for all kinds of situations and for all places; a myriad of entertainment gadgets; various communication systems; a wide variety of modes of transport; enormous variety of dwelling places with all kinds of internal amenities etc. To get these set of things, it is necessary to use natural products and to put them to various kinds of transformations. Since the requirements are enormous, therefore, the demand on natural products is also enormous. To meet these requirements natural resources have been exploited to the maximum possible extent. The result is extreme kind of shortages of natural products. This has led to the development of synthetic products. All along this process, unimaginable quantities of waste are being exhausted into the natural environment. The 'Infinite sink' is gradually becoming 'finite' and the effects are visible in various forms

of problems being faced by man. The entire science and technological community of the world is worried at this alarmingly deteriorating situation.

To ancient Indian seers there was no idle philosophy. No philosophy had any claim to recognition unless it had some bearing on life. The philosophy must provide 'Darshan' to an ordinary mortal. Students were required to chant Vedic mantras daily. Seers discouraged it as a mechanical process and instead encouraged some reflection in the form of meditational upasna. In regard to achieving a harmonious living with nature and provide the mankind its much sought after HAPPINESS one Hindu Vidya called panchagni-vidya (or the meditation on the five fires) is worth consideration. According to this PANCHAGNI-VIDYA the whole world, sentient and insentient, is considered to be a homogeneous group of factors in a cosmic sacrifice involving five successive fires arranged in the order of their subtleness. They are all knit together through a spirit of SELF SACRIFICE, so that a new creation may emerge, new life may come into existence, at every stage. The ancients looked on all things and processes from a higher intellectual and spiritual plane. To them all things were agents in a sacrifice bringing new life into existence. IT IS THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE AS AN AGENT IN CREATION AND NOT AS A HOMOSAPIEN, THE ENJOYER OF NATURE which lies at the root of this Panchagni Vidya.

Hindus daily worship and practice harmony with the Cosmos and nature (_____). One such Vedic mantra is given below:

ॐ |kS% 'kkfUrjUrfj{ka 'kkfUr% i`Foh 'kkfUrjki%
'kkfUrjks''k/k;% 'kkfUr%A cuLir;% 'kkfUrfoZ'osnsok%
'kkfUrczZã 'kkfUr% loZa 'kkfUr% 'kkUrjso 'kkfUr% lk ek
'kkfUrjs foAA
;tqosZn v-36] ea- 17

Above mentioned Mantra, when followed in letter and spirit will enable a pollution free world to come in existence with global happiness.

Prof. B. Kishor
7 Mani Nagar Colony, Kandawa
Panch-Kroshi Road
VARANASI-221106 (India)
Tel.: (0542)2316081

e-mail: profbkishor@sancharnet.in