

Echoes of Eco



April, 2010

Vivekananda Kendra- **nardep** Newsletter

Vol:2 No:2

Unity of all Life as God



To be able to use what we call Viveka (discrimination), to learn how in every moment of our lives, in every one of our actions, to discriminate between what is right and wrong, true and false, we shall have to know the test of truth, which is purity, oneness.

Everything that makes for oneness is truth. Love is truth, and hatred is false, because hatred makes for multiplicity. It is hatred that separates man from man; therefore it is wrong and false. It is a disintegrating power; it separates and destroys.

Love binds, love makes for that oneness. You become one, the mother with the child, families with the city the whole world becomes one with the animals.

For love is Existence, God Himself; and all this is the manifestation of that One Love, more or less expressed. The difference is only in degree, but it is the manifestation of that One Love throughout.

Therefore in all our actions we have to judge whether it is making for diversity or for oneness. If for diversity we have to give it up, but if it makes for oneness we are sure it is good.

So with our thoughts; we have to decide whether they make for disintegration, multiplicity, or for oneness, binding soul to soul and bringing one influence to bear. If they do this, we will take them up, and if not, we will throw them off as criminal.

...If this is not preaching a practical God, how else could you teach a practical God? Where is there a more practical God than He whom I see before me — a God omnipresent, in every being, more real than our senses? For you are He, the Omnipresent God Almighty, the Soul of your souls, and if I say you are not, I tell an untruth. I know it, whether at all times I realise it or not. He is the Oneness, the Unity of all, the Reality of all life and all existence.

Swami Vivekananda (*Practical Vedanta*)

In this issue:

- Unity of all life as God
- Building Grassroots level-II
- The Happenings-I
- The Happenings - II
- The Happenings-III
- Our Publication
- Visions of Wisdom

A Hymn to Sun



An offspring of Aditi, the progenitor of all, the Sun God, the courier in the heavens, the nourisher of all life, the possessor of rays, the golden, the brilliant, the one whose energy constitutes the seed of the universe, the maker of day.

-Seer Valmiki



Truth is more in the process than in the result— J. Krishnamurthi



Building Grassroots level organizations for Sustainable Agriculture-II

When a farmer described in the weekly meeting how he was able to cut off weeding expenses by inoculating Azolla in his paddy field apart from using it as a regular livestock feed, the farmers were excited. Now the idea of biogas slurry enriched Azolla bed was introduced. One farmer Mr. Kasi Ramalingam accepted biogas plant. His experience of not only biogas but also biogas slurry enriched agro-inputs inspired others. Soon PanchaGauya and fish-amino prepared in the backyard of Kozhikottupothai farmers became so popular that farmers could make individually monthly sales of these products. Thus Mrs Thangam an innovative woman farmer belonging to the farmers' association made fish-amino and sold it for Rs 100 per half litre. Four farmers have made sales of PanchaGauya and vermicompost to other villagers.

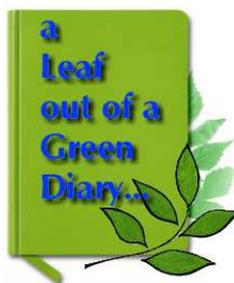
Kozhikottupothai village is becoming an epicenter of low external input sustainable agriculture that along with VK-NARDEP, the representatives of the farmers association of Kozhikottupothai arranged for farmers' workshop in of low external input technologies in the nearby villages like Athalavillai, Devakulam and Kannanpathi.

Of the three villages two villages have scheduled caste populations. These camps have been conducted just prior to the current crop so that the farmers can make use of the techniques this cropping season itself. AIR station has broadcast two series on organic poultry farming practiced in Kozhikottupothai. NABARD in its jubilee celebrations has nominated Kozhikottupothai village Vivekananda Farmers Association for the best farmers association having tie-up with NABARD. All these started with regular but informal fortnightly farmers meetings and today it has become a movement and example for neighborhood villages as well.



Handing over resources for Common tool centre

This led the farmers to have another sitting with the NABARD manager and with the assistance from NABARD and technical guidance of VK-NARDEP Kozhikottupothai. Vivekananda Farmers association is launching its own sustainable agricultural inputs prepared locally and sold to farmers within and outside the village



This month...



- 122 patients were treated at Vivekananda Kendra Green Health Home at Vivekanandapuram.

Preventing Traditional Knowledge Piracy: India shows the way

An electronic facility that India had set up eight years ago to pre-empt unfair patenting of the country's traditional knowledge on curative potency of various biological resources has come handy.

The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) that came up following the turmeric patent case — which saw a US patent based on India's traditional knowledge being successfully challenged by New Delhi, forcing the US patent office to revoke it—has warded off the danger of 13 more such patenting pleas at the European Patent Office since then.

In 2000, a TKDL expert group estimated that about 2,000 wrong patents concerning Indian systems of medicine were being granted every year at the global level, however, during October-December 2009, only 14 applications were filed, indicating a decline. TKDL is a joint effort of the CSIR and the department of AYUSH, first of its kind in the world targeted against grant of unethical patents and bio-piracy.

Courtesy: Financial Express, May 01, 2010



This month... Agriculture

Livestock Management Follow-up camp



- On 5th April, the follow-up training on "Livestock Management" (FTTF) was held at village Marunkur, Kanyakumari district, with 20 participants and with Smt.S.Premalatha as Resource Person.



- On 19th April, the follow-up training on "Livestock Management" (FTTF) was held at village Thazhakudi, Kanyakumari district, with 16 participants and with Smt.S.Premalatha as Resource Person.



- On 20th April field visit to Mitraniketan, Vellayani for 25 villagers of Kozhikottupothai as part of NABARD Village Development Programme was coordinated by Shri.S.Rajamony.

Make your children Eco-Literates
VK-NARDEP Publications: Eco-Literacy for
children this summer:



Get your near and dear ones VK-NARDEP publications.
Contact: Secretary, VK-NARDEP, Vivekananda Kendra,
Kanyakumari -629 702. Email: vknardep@gmail.com



- Workshop on “Azolla Cultivation” was held at Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP TRC, Kalluvilai on 22nd April for 6 members with Smt.S.Premlatha as Resource Person.
- A Study Tour of 20 students from Kerala Agriculture University, Kasaragod arrived at Vivekanandapuram on 24th April and Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai was the resource person.



- Study tour for Project work was undertaken by six students of S.M.R.V. Higher Secondary School, Vadasery, Nagerkovil to Gramodaya Park on 19th April. The Students saw the live model of Rain Water Harvesting and also the Water panels at the park.
- Tested water from 14 wells in Kanyakumari Dist – programme of Central Ground Water Board, Chennai



This month... Networking



- 33 Students of Krishnamurti Foundation India, Chennai visited Vivekananda Kendra from 1st to 3rd of April. Students visited our Gramodaya Park to study the Rural Technologies and also visited our Technology Resource Centre and Kozhikottupottai village to study the farming activities.
- 16 Students of Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil visited Gramodaya Park on 2nd of April.
- 50 Students of Govt. Arts and Science College, Surandai visited Gramodaya Park on 7th of April.



- Workshop for Teachers on “Developing Scientific Temper” from Dept. of Science and Technology, New Delhi was conducted at TRC, Kalluvillai from 22nd to 26th of April. 28 teachers from various schools all over Kanyakumari district attended the workshop. Resource Persons were Mr. & Mrs. Tumne and Shri.Vivek Ponskhe, from Pune.



This month... Shakti Surabhi

- Workshop on "Shakti Surabhi" was held at Kalluvilai TRC on 22nd and 10 persons attended the camp. The resource person was Sri.V.Ramakrishnan and Sri. Muneeswaran.
- Commissioning of 15 Shakti Surabhi plant under NABARD (RIF), Chennai was done at Kanyakumari.



- Training in Shakti Surabhi. Trainees seeing the components of Bio-methanation plant.

In our relationship with children and young people, we are not dealing with mechanical devices that can be quickly repaired, but with living beings who are impressionable, volatile, sensitive, afraid, affectionate; and to deal with them we have to have great understanding, the strength of patience and love... "

J. Krishnamurti

Teachers' Science Camp: Some Glimpses.



- Teachers given demonstrations through simple devices on how to explain scientific principles to children.



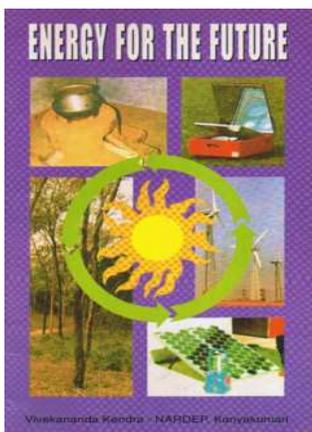
To Teachers

Never regard your study as a duty but as the enviable opportunity to learn to know the liberating influence of beauty in the realm of spirit for your own personal joy and to the profit of community to which your later work belongs.

-Albert Einstein



From Our Publications



Energy for the Future is a comprehensive introduction to the different renewable energy resources available for common Indians.

This booklet provides an excellent introductory material for various eco-technologies for harnessing natural and renewable energy sources.

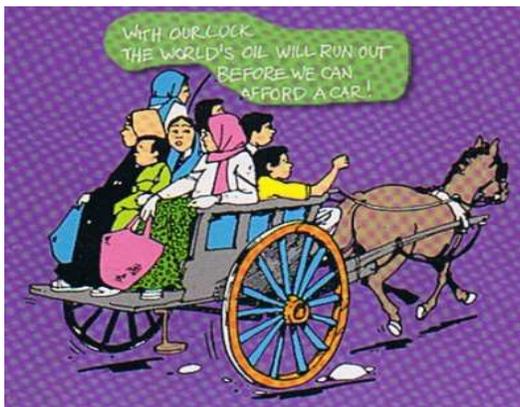
After providing a comprehensive picture of energy scenario and current ecological crisis and an enumeration of energy sources available for us it moves on to each individual technologies of energy obtainment.

The part on solar energy deals with basic solar energy heating systems and solar energy desalination as well as solar dryers and cookers. It also deals with photovoltaic cells.

The section on Bio-energy deals with Biogas with a good illustration of entire bio-gas process cycle. It also discusses improved Chula and Bio Mass as well as Gasifier Technology which is efficient fuel usage of agro-industrial waste.

The section on Wind-Energy deals with wind mills/turbines and pumps as well as wind farms. There are simple, easy to understand, line drawings of the technologies which explain the operation of these technologies. The booklet also deals with geothermal energy and micro/mini hydal projects.

The book is an excellent first time guide to students as well as common men for the concept of renewable energy and for non-technical understanding of the technologies used for harnessing these forms of energy. The added emphasis on cost-effective technologies that can be domestically used is an additional advantage of the book.



Ecotoon:
"With our luck world's oil will run out before we can afford a car"

Energy for the Future
Vivekananda Kendra -NARDEP
Published: 1997



Preserve Indian wildlife

- slurry enriched vermi compost
- backyard azolla cultivation
- backyard BGA cultivation
- living water: slurry-enriched liquid fertilizer
- slurry-enriched coirpith compost
- Panchagavya: traditional cattle dung based liquid fertilizer
- slurry enriched NADEP compost

A person writing at night may put out the lamp, but the words he has written will remain. It is the same with the destiny we create for ourselves in this world. – Buddha



Eco-Prophecy

The “control of Nature” is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that Nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth. ...Under the philosophy that now seems to guide our destinies, nothing must get in the way of the man with the spray gun. We must make wider use of alternative methods that are now known, and we must devote our ingenuity and resources to developing others.

- *Rachel Carson*
Biologist (1962)



Eco-Meditation

A deep chesty bawl echoes from rimrock to rimrock, rolls down the mountain, and fades into the far blackness of the night. It is an outburst of wild defiant sorrow, and of contempt for all the adversities of the world....

Every living thing pays heed to that call. To the deer it is a reminder of the way of all flesh, to the pine a forecast of midnight scuffles and of blood upon the snow, to the coyote a promise of gleanings to come, to the cowman a threat of red ink at the bank, to the hunter a challenge of fang against bullet. ...

Behind these obvious and immediate hopes and fears there lies a deeper meaning, known only to the mountain itself. Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of a wolf.

- *Aldo Leopold*
Ecologist



Eco-Literacy

What we hope to achieve is because our approach to ecology is not just environmental education but it's to teach them to think systemically. Thinking systemically, the ability to think systemically, should give them a better education — whether it's environmental or otherwise. Moreover, because they're interested in their education, they become passionate about the knowledge that they learn in the garden and about other kinds of knowledge, because they're really involved in their own education, they should learn better. When you're really interested in something and learn it in order to achieve success in a project or in something that you want to do, you will learn better. Our Eco-literacy kids should be better learners, and that's what we're testing now.

- *Fritjof Capra*
Physicist

