

# Echoes of Eco

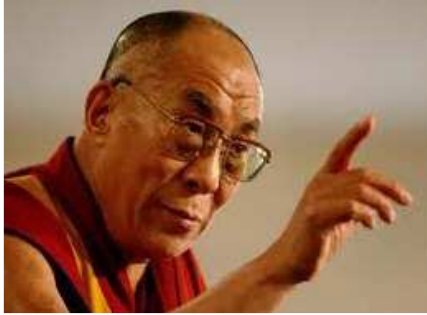


October , 2010

Vivekananda Kendra- **nardep** Newsletter

Vol:2 No:8

## Dalai Lama on Environment



Peace and the survival of life on earth as we know it are threatened by human activities that lack a commitment to humanitarian values. Destruction of nature and natural resources results from ignorance, greed and lack of respect for the earth's living things. This lack of respect extends even to the earth's human descendants, the future generations who will inherit a vastly degraded planet if world peace does not become a reality, and if destruction of the natural environment continues at the present rate.

Our ancestors viewed the earth as rich and bountiful, which it is. Many people in the past also saw nature as inexhaustibly sustainable, which we know is the case only if we care for it. It is not difficult to forgive destruction in the past which resulted from ignorance. Today, however, we have access to more information.

It is essential that we re-examine ethically what we have inherited, what we are responsible for, and what we will pass on to coming generations.

Many of the earth's habitats, animals, plants, insects and even micro-organisms that we know to be rare may not be known at all by future generations. We have the capability and the responsibility to act; we must do so before it is too late. Just as we should cultivate gentle and peaceful relations with our fellow human beings, we should also extend that same kind of attitude towards the natural environment. Morally speaking, we should be concerned for our whole environment.

This, however, is not just a question of morality or ethics, but a question of our own survival. For this generation and for future generations, the environment is very important. If we exploit the environment in extreme ways, we will suffer, as will our future generations. When the environment changes, the climatic condition also changes. When the climate changes dramatically, the economy and many other things change. Our physical health will be greatly affected. Again, conservation is not merely a question of morality, but a question of our own survival.

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### Hymn for the Earth Mother along the ploughshare



***Auspicious let our ploughs  
plough up the Earth. Auspicious  
let our cultivators press on with  
their oxen. Let the rain God with  
milk and honey be auspicious.***

***Auspicious plough and  
ploughshare hold in us what is  
auspicious.***

**-Rig Veda (Book IV: Hymn 57:8)**



**Service to humanity is the highest form of worship – Swami Vivekananda**

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life - think of it, dream of it, live on idea. Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body, be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success. – Swami Vivekananda

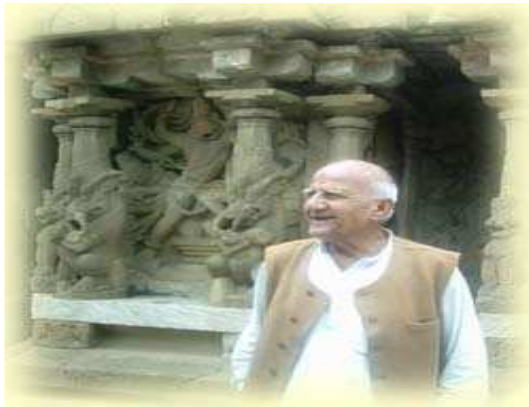


## Re-Discovery of India and discovery of a life's mission.

This month...



### A chat in a journey opens the eye



Around 1960, I was travelling from Gwalior to Delhi by a day train, a 6 or 7 hour journey in a 3<sup>rd</sup> class compartment when I met a group of people and I think in a way that meeting gave me a view of India, the larger India. The train was crowded. Some people however made a place for me. And there was this group of people, about twelve of them, some three or four women and seven or eight men. I asked them where they were coming from. They said that they had been on a pilgrimage, three months long, up to Rameshwaram, among other places. They came from two different villages north of Lucknow. They had various bundles of things and some earthen pots with them.

I asked, what did they have in those pots. They said that they had taken their own food from home. They had taken all the necessities for their food-atta, ghee, sugar - with them, and some amounts of these were still left over. The women didn't seem to mind much people trampling over them in the crowded compartment, but they did feel unhappy if someone touched their bundles and pots of food with their feet.

And then I said they must all be from one jati, from a single caste group. They said, 'No, no! We are not from one jati, we are from several jatis.' I said, how could that be? They said that there was no jati on a yatra-not on a pilgrimage.

I didn't know that. I was around 38 years old, and like many others in this country who know little about the ways of the ordinary Indian-the peasants, artisans and other village folks.

And then I said, 'Did you go to Madras? Did you go to Bombay?' 'Yes! We passed through those places,' 'Did you see anything there?' 'No, we did not have any time!' It went on like that. I mentioned various important places of modern India. They had passed through most, but had not cared to visit any.

Then I said, 'You are going to Delhi now?' 'Yes!' 'You will stop in Delhi?' 'No, we only have to change trains there. We're going to Haridwar!' I said, 'This is the capital of free India. Won't you see it?' I meant it. I was not joking. They said, 'No! We don't have time. May be some other day. Not now. We have to go to Haridwar. And then we have to get back home.'

We talked perhaps 5 or 6 hours. At the end of it I began to wonder, who is going to look after this India? , India are we talking about? This India, the glorious of the modern age, built by Jawaharlal Nehru and people, these modern temples, universities, places of scholarship! For whom are we building them? Those people in their pilgrimage were not interested in any of this. And were representative of India. More representative of India than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ever was. Or I and most us could ever be.

The then young narrator's name was Dharampal. This conversation in the train transformed him and made him research in rural India her society, her history and science and technology Today he is considered the best alternative social historian of India

Green Health Home at Vivekananda Puram functioned for 8 days and treated 182.patients.

Awareness workshop on "Ethno Herbal Medicines" was held at Govt. Museum, Kanyakumari on 4th of October. It was organized by the Dept. of Forest, Govt. of Tamilnadu, Kanyakumari Dist. 46 persons attended it and the resource person was Dr.V.Ganapathy



Done with DST core support



### Water and Sanitation ...

- Collector's meeting on Solid Waste Management was conducted at Collectorate, Nagercoil on 2nd October. Sis.V.Saraswathi attended the meeting.
- Tested water from 14 wells in Kanyakumari Dist – programme of Central Ground Water Board, Chennai



Human subtlety will never devise an invention more beautiful, more simple or more direct than does nature because in her inventions nothing is lacking, and nothing is superfluous.

-Leonardo da Vinci



The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence. – Rabindranath Tagore



### Training Programme on Shakthi Surabhi in progress at TRC of VK-NARDEP



At TRC of VK-NARDEP Shakthi Surabhi Bio-Methanation plant training programme: (RIF, NABARD)



### Workshop on Azolla technology in progress at TRC of VK-NARDEP



### This month... Networking



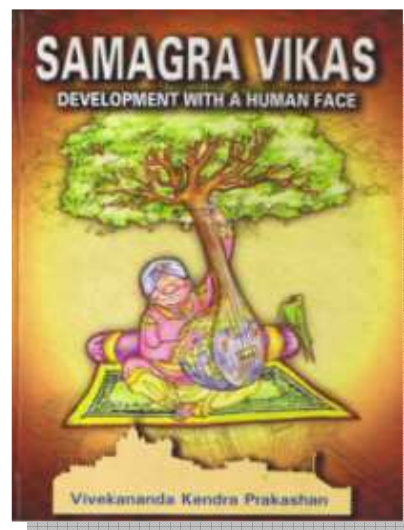
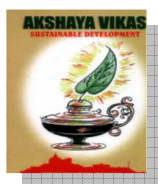
Aval Vikatan magazine gave a good coverage on Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy gave a good coverage of our work in the field of Biogas from Kitchen and Vegetable waste under the heading "Empowering Communities" in their Souvenir.

59 students visited VK-NARDEP for a study tour on "Organic Farming" from Noorul Islam College of Arts & Science, Kumarancoil, Kanyakumari Dist on 27<sup>th</sup>. The resource person was Shri.S.Rajamony



Networking activities here have been Done with DST core support



**What is your idea of development? Is it material? Is it correct? Is it sustainable?**

**How can you find out? Read Samagara Vikas- Development with Human Face. For copies contact the Secretary Vivekananda Kendra-NARDEP Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari- 629702**



*One way to open your eyes is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?' – Rachel Carson*



**Noorul-Islam college students at Gramodhya Park studying sustainable technologies.**



**Happenings: This month for Sustainable Agriculture**

- Workshop on “Azolla technology” was held at Vivekanandapuram on from 30<sup>th</sup> Sep to 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 11 participants attended this workshop organized by Directorate of Dairy Development, Jharkhand, Ranchi. The Resource Person was Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai.
- Workshop on “Vermi Composting Techniques” was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October. Ramanachanputhooor, Kanyakumari Forest Department, Aralvaimozhi, Kanyakumari Dist 36 persons attended. Shri.S.Rajamony was the Resource Person.
- Workshop on “Azolla Technology” was held at Technology Resource Center, Kalluvillai on 23<sup>rd</sup>. 3 persons attended. The resource person was S.Premalatha
- Workshop on “Vermi Composting Techniques” was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October for 5 participants from Carmel H.S.School at Vivekananda Kendra. Shri.S.Rajamony was the Resource Person.
- Workshop on “Organic Farming” organized by Forest Department, Aralvaimozhi, Kanyakumari Dist. was held at Azhagappapuram on 26th. 35 persons attended that training and the resource person was Shri.S.Rajamony
- Workshop on “Azolla Technology” was held at SOSOD Pambanvillai on 30<sup>th</sup>. 40 persons attended. The resource person was S.Premalatha

**Renewable Energy This Month...**



Training programme on Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant under the SUZLON project, was held at TRC, Kalluvilai on 21<sup>st</sup>. 17 persons attended and the resource persons was Shri.V.Ramakrishnan:

Training programme on Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant was held under (RIF) NABARD, Chennai. It was held at TRC, Kalluvilai on 23<sup>rd</sup>. 19 persons attended and the resource persons: were Shri.G.Vasudeo, Shri.V.Ramakrishnan

**A section of audience on the seminar on Ethno-Medicine**



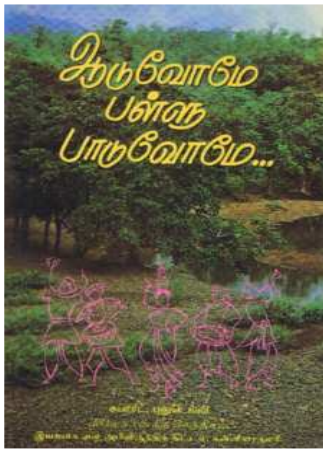
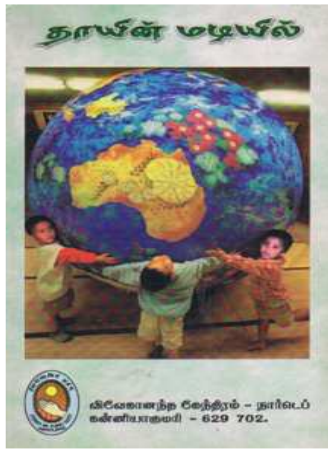
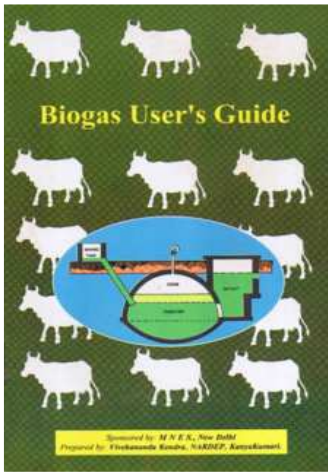
**Dr. V.Ganapathi giving the lecture on Ethno-Medicine.**





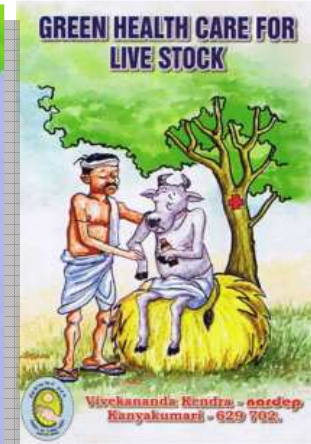
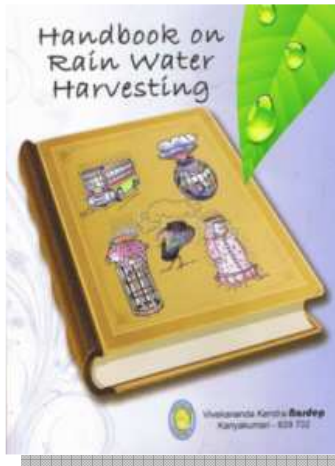
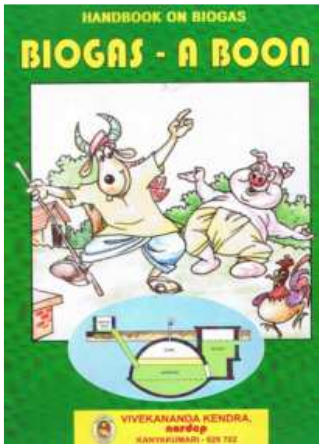


If facts are the seeds that later produce knowledge and wisdom, then the emotions and the impressions of the senses are the fertile soil in which the seeds must grow. – Rachel Carson



A profound alteration in our attitudes towards our people and our past has to take place. We must enable our people to feel more self-assured, confident, hopeful, proud of their talents and capacities, and encourage them to regain their individual and societal dignity. To achieve this state, they need to acquire a better awareness - especially as children and youth - of the human past of their localities, and to establish friendly relations with other beings including all kinds of animal life, bees, bushes and plants, rivers, lakes, ponds, hills, forests, soil, etc. which coexist with man.

-Dharampal



How Shakthi Surabhi tackles the waste-disposal problem in a multi-faceted way:

- Alternative fuel for cooking gas
- Waste disposal - very good for bio degradable waste management system
- Hygienic - no odor and flies
- Arrests green house gas
- Digested outlet slurry is good as organic manure

How to feed the future humanity?  
How to make development sustainable?  
Some of the best publications on the subject for layman and professionals alike are from VK-NARDEP.  
Contact: The Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra-NARDEP  
Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari-629702  
Tamil Nadu  
Phone: 04652-246296 Email: vknardep@gmail.com



### This month... Shakthi Surabhi

5 Shakthi Surabhi plants were commissioned this month under RIF scheme of NABARD, Chennai

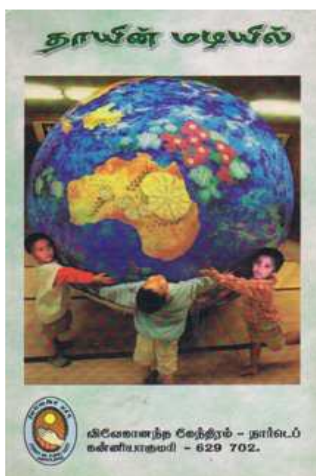


All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life. He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying. Therefore love for love's sake, because it is law of life, just as you breathe to live.  
– Swami Vivekananda





## From Our Publications



Laps of our mothers have always been a comfort and safety zone for us when we were toddlers, But when a child –till a toddler- who can barely walk tries to venture out into dangerous areas from the safety of the lap of mother, it is bound to get bruises. Only when it has grown a little, it can venture out safely. .

Humanity is relatively a very young species. They are still toddlers in the eyes of Mother Earth. However arrogant in their ignorance, humanity not only ventures out into dangerous zones but also hurt the very mother who nurtures them.

The book 'Thayin Madiyil' (In the lap of Mother: Tamil) aims to create eco-awareness by appealing to the child in us and also to children at large. This book is an eco-activity book for children.

Richly illustrated with simple but effective diagrams, the book provides children with

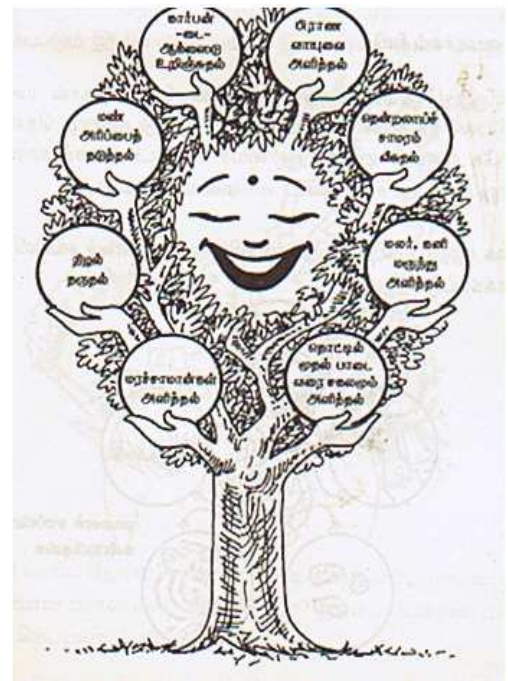
- Eco-proverbs that are prevalent in Tamil Nadu
- Games for children to play like snake and ladder with environmental awareness as the basic theme of the snake and ladder chart
- Eco-Cartoons and provides through them encouragement for children to create their own eco-cartoons.
- Eco-Rhymes and also group songs which stimulate students to engage in group activities conducive to environmental well being
- Puzzles to solve with ecological themes
- Basic concepts of the science of ecology with simple and illuminating pictures.

The book makes the children create charts and pictures and also teaches them daily values like how to keep their rooms and houses clean, helping the elders and living in harmony with friends and neighbors. Thus the book provides personal values, social values and also ecological values.

The book is written by Sister.V.Saraswathi – who has in-depth knowledge from the field work she had done for more than twenty five years. This book is a must for anyone who organizes a children camp with sustainable living as its theme. The book is published on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.

Thayin Madiyil (In the lap of Mother)  
**Pages: 112**  
**Price: Rs 40/-(subject to change)**  
**Secretary VK-NARDEP**  
**Kanyakumari -629 702**  
**Year: 2002**

## Multiple benefits of a Tree (Tamil)



An Ecotone from 'Thayin Madiyil' (In the lap of Mother) See Book review for book details.

*The fact that modern physics, the manifestation of an extreme specialisation of the rational mind, is now making contact with mysticism, the essence of religion and manifestation of an extreme specialisation of the intuitive mind, shows very beautifully the unity and complementary nature of the rational and intuitive modes of consciousness; of the yang and the yin. – Frijof Capra*



### **Dharmic Feeling**

Knowledge, feeling, and choice are essentially eternal and unchangeable and numerically one in all men, nay in all sensitive beings. But not in this sense — that you are a part, a piece, of an eternal, infinite being, an aspect or modification of it...

For we should then have the same baffling question: which part, which aspect are you? what, objectively, differentiates it from the others? In-conceivable as it seems to ordinary reason, you — and all other conscious beings as such — are all in all. Hence, this life of yours... is, in a certain sense, the whole... This, as we know, is what the Brahmins express in that sacred, mystic formula... 'Tat tvam asi' — this is you. Or, again, in such words as 'I am in the east and in the west, I am below and above, I am this whole world.' Thus you can throw yourself flat on the ground, stretched out upon Mother Earth, with certain conviction that you are one with her and she with you ...

- *Erwin Schrodinger*

Physicist



### **Dharmic Thinking**

Right thinking consists of understanding the paradigm shift from a user's point of view and helping others in our environment to do so. Right living consists of walking the talk, manifesting our understanding in how we live, becoming guiding examples for others in our environment. As such it takes a lot of quantum leaps, openness to nonlocality, and the desire to change hierarchical relationships into tangled ones. And right livelihood consists of earning our living in a way that is congruent with our modes of thinking and living and helping our entire society to achieve this congruence.

It is exciting you say, but is that enough to motivate me? I will tell you my fundamental understanding: if you are reading this column you are already motivated. You know what? Consciousness is already pressuring you to join its evolutionary movement.

- *Amit Goswami*

Physicist



### **Dharmic Technology**

A technology with a human face, is in fact possible; also it is viable; and more importantly it reintegrates the human being, with his skilful hands and creative brain, into the productive process. Such a technology serves production by the masses instead of mass production.

I have no doubt that it is possible to give a new direction to technological development, a direction that shall lead it back to the real needs of man, and that also means: to the actual size of man. Man is small, and, therefore, small is beautiful.

To go for giantism is to go for self-destruction. And what is the cost of a reorientation? We might remind ourselves that to calculate the cost of survival is perverse. No doubt, a price has to be paid for anything worthwhile: to redirect technology so that it serves man instead of destroying him requires primarily an effort of the imagination and an abandonment of fear.

*E. F. Schumacher*

Economist

