

Echoes of Eco



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Vivekananda Kendra- nardip Newsletter

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Ecological Education for Children



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Invocation



May the world be peaceful. May the wicked become gentle. May all organisms think of mutual welfare. May their mind be occupied with what is auspicious. And may our hearts be immersed in the selfless love of the Divine.

- Bhagavat : 5:18:9



Ecological education within a holistic framework focuses on empowering, transforming, and developing consciousness among students. Ecology, social justice, and authentic forms of educational assessment are included in holistic education. Children are part of their ecosystem and have a right to learn how to work with, not destroy, their surrounding ecosystem in order to connect, respect, nurture, and develop a connection to other living organisms.

Vital factors which for children's and all people's survival. Students' natural surroundings, communities, and the planet are integral domains of their lives. Individuals are part of a natural system that directly and indirectly affect each other. Schools are micro-systems of a larger system; unfortunately, they have become alienated from those larger systems, such as their surrounding communities and the natural environment surrounding the schools.

Ecological education is not only about global warming, acid rain, biodiversity, and the disappearance of forests.

But it also includes, economics, population, risk analysis, public policy, social justice, earth as a living system, and developing in students not only awareness but an understanding of ecological issues.

Ecological education within a holistic approach has the power to construct positive connections between school and society. Furthermore, ecological education promotes sustainable development consistent with teaching the whole child and educates for sustainability from an interconnected pattern. Eco-literacy has the ability to raise awareness for the need to protect the environment, health, and living systems. Living systems include not only plants and animals, but also human beings. Ecological education also develops relations between students and nature and promotes an understanding on how individual and collective decisions influence the environment and ecosystems. Ecology develops students' relation to other organisms, to one another, and helps them make the correct choices regarding the planet.

[Lillian Colón-Vilá Researcher at the University of Phoenix and an educational consultant]

There should not be any trace of dislike or distrust on the score of nationality, language, caste, economic status, scholarship, age or gender. – Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Sustainable Building Practices: Various dimensions of Ferro-cement technology

This month...

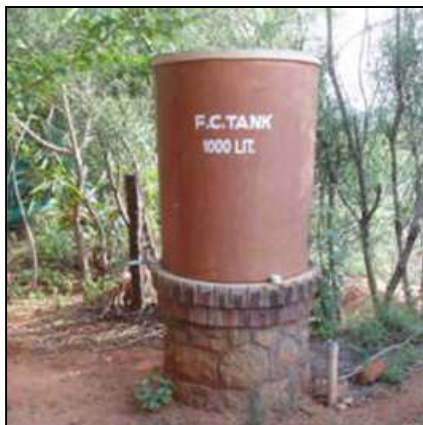


Ferro-Cement Technology :

One of the important cost-effective construction solutions which is also eco-friendly is Ferro-cement technology. It reduces use of wood for the construction of doors, windows etc. It is also useful in building water storage structures that can be used for community purposes. However the problem is the propagation of this technology,

Our approach to the problem of technology dissemination has been at various levels. One important innovation by VK-nardep is the value-addition to this technology. There is also synergetic coupling of this technology with other highly adaptable sustainable technologies. This integrates Ferro-cement technology as part and parcel of the way of life rather than a separate piecemeal technological intervention.

VK-nardep also uses the Ferro-Cement technology in the fabrication of the fixed model plant of Shakthi-Surabhi. Shakthi-Surabhi is a highly successful model of bio-methanation plant that we had innovated and disseminating. It produces gas from domestic-kitchen waste.



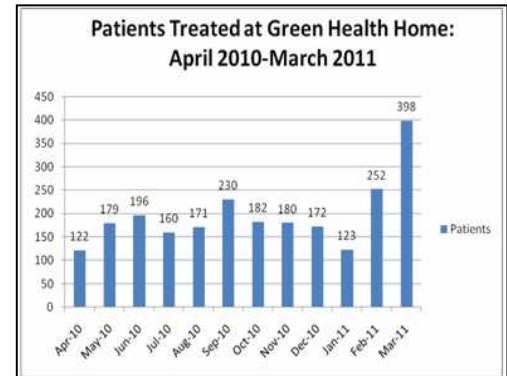
As we also work in the field of rain water harvesting and management of local water resources by community. Here we have introduced the Ferro-cement technology for the construction of storage tanks. This community structures as well as household water storage structures made of Ferro-cement make them affordable for the rural communities and also help in technology dissemination.



The above photographs show how the ferro-cement technology can be used in creating important social infrastructure for rural areas like toilet buildings and gates for village commons.

Next we will see the use of the technology in aesthetic creations in the already existing buildings.

Green Health Home at Vivekananda Puram functioned for 7 days and treated 180 patients.



Water and Sanitation

Tested water from 14 wells in Kanyakumari Dist – programme of Central Ground Water Board, Chennai



New Upload in Youtube

Please visit our youtube channel for new updates of videos.

The latest video gives an introduction to Shakthi Surabhi Bio-Methanation plant. Users share their experiences and Er. Ramakrishnan explains the need and relevance of the plant.

Spiritual progress is right living, good conduct, moral behavior. A nation that has no bridle on its sensuality, can never thrive or survive. Man will realize his mission on earth when he knows himself as divine and reveres others as divine. – Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Workshop on Biogas plant and Biomanure technology : Technology introduction session



Dr. Lakshmi Kumari at the inauguration ceremony of the family camp at TRC Kalluvillai.

Rural women get an exposure and training in Azolla Backyard cultivation as Bio-Feed technology



A joyful moment of dancing: Reliving the childhood and Inspiring the children to unleash their own creative potential



This month... Networking



Shri.Ravichandran who is doing MBA Rural Project Management at Gandhigram Rural Institute Gandhigram Dindigul finished his Intership for Eight weeks (1st March to 23rd April) at TRC Kalluvillai

A camp 'to create a scientific temper in the minds of school children and teachers' was held at TRC, Kalluvillai from 18th to 22nd of this month. It was sponsored by Department of Science and Technology. 25 Teachers and 32 Students attended.

Networking activities here have been done with DST core support



The exuberance of the faces reveal how wonderful the family camp experience was for the participants!





When the road ends, and the goal is gained, the pilgrim finds that he has traveled only from himself to himself. – Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Learning of sustainable farming technologies by farmers from Kerala who were visiting the Technology Resource Centre as part of interstate farmers' exposure visit on 20th April.



Happenings: This month for Sustainable Agriculture

Workshop on Biogas plant and Bio manure Technology, was organized by All India Radio (C/O. Human Resources Development, New Delhi.) and was conducted at Technology Resource Center, Kalluvilai on 21st of this month. 43 persons attended. The resource persons were Sis.V.Saraswathy and S.Rajamony.



Further Happenings: This month for Networking

Annual meet of the eco-club of Vivekananda College, Agastesawaam was held at the Kumaraswami Memorial Auditorium on 5th of this month. 300 students attended. The resource persons were Sis.V.Saraswarhi and S.Rajamony.

Discovery – Family Camp for close Associates of VK – nardep was held at TRC, Kalluvilai from 27th to 30th. 42 persons attended.

Inter State Farmers Exposure of 30 farmers from Attankal (Kerala) visit was organized by (ATMA), Kerala. On 20th they visited VK – NARDEP Vivekanandapuram, and J.C.BoseNursery.of medicinal and other plants

Renewable Energy This Month...



Training programme on Bio-methanation plant was held under RIF (NABARD, Chennai) at TRC, Kalluvilai. This was held on 30th of this month. 6 beneficiaries attended the programme and the Resource Person was Shri.V.Ramakrishnan

Follow-up camp on Bio-methanation plant (NABARD, Chennai) was held at TRC, Kalluvilai on 30th and 28 persons attended it. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the Resource Person.

Training and interaction with Bio-methanation plant users was held under Suzlon Project at Sivasubramoniapuram on 19th. 18 beneficiaries attended, Sri.V.Muneeswarana Shri.K.Kadhiresan and Shri.K.Periyaswami were the resource persons.

Shakthi-Surabhi Users interact with technical team from VK-nardep



Presentation on Green Technologies –Bio-methanation of Organic Waste by Sri.G.Vasudeo





When you kill an animal, you give him suffering, pain, harm. GOD is in every creature, so how can you give such pain? – Sri Sathya Sai Baba



DST-Core Support Evaluation team visit



Creating Scientific Temper in Students and Teachers Camp



We light the lamps of knowledge in the young minds and open the windows of the universe to the tender hearts so that they will grow in wisdom and bring happiness and peace to all life on earth,

- All is one; be alike to everyone. The world is one; be good to everyone.
- Since God is the indwelling Divine Spirit of all living beings, doing service or good to a person is in reality worshipping God. Similarly talking ill or doing anything bad to a person is in reality doing bad to God Himself or talking ill of Him.
- True spiritual life is that which teaches unity or oneness and makes us selfless and full of love.



Have you read this important book that will help you lead a healthier and productive life?

This month... Shakti Surabhi



26 Shakti Surabhi plants were commissioned this month at the village of Siva-Subramaniapuram. These were fixed plants of 1 cubic meter capacity. The project were sponsored by SUZLON.

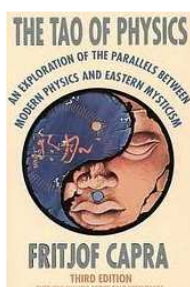


All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life. He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying. Therefore love for love's sake, because it is law of life, just as you breathe to live.

Small minds select narrow roads; expand your mental vision and take to the broad road of helpfulness, compassion and service. – Sri Sathya Sai Baba

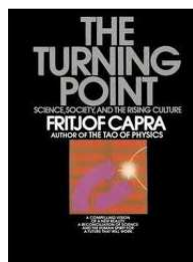


Books by Fritjof Capra: an exploration



Fritjof Capra, a particle physicist turned author and deep-ecologist is a well-known figure in India. His popularity is because of the path-breaking book 'Tao of Physics' where he draws parallel between the eastern wisdom and the worldviews that are emerging at the cutting edge of modern physics. The book created some of the most powerful images that would last forever etched in our consciousness, like the bubble chamber sub atomic particle trajectories superimposed on the photo negative of a Chola bronze Nataraja.

Since then Capra has gone forward and expanded his vision to study how the paradigm shift in physics is spreading over to other fields like medicine, psychology and even economics. The result of this study is the book 'Turning Point'.



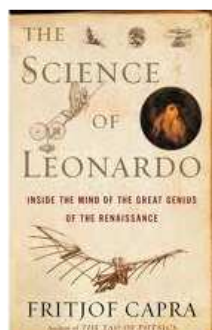
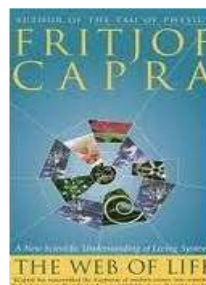
Conceptualized by Thomas Kuhn, Capra popularized the word 'Paradigm Shift' without diluting its meaning.



He also talks with molecular biologists, psychiatrists, politicians and economists. This is an important book for anyone who wants to understand Capra's own inner development.

His next important book is 'The Web of Life' where he revealed the new integrative developments in the study of the origin of life and consciousness. Here he explored the works of biologists Humberto Maturana and Francisco Varela. He pointed out how biology is rapidly moving towards a holistic conception of life from the reductionist framework of molecular biology.

He went on to write 'Hidden connections' that explored the social evolution in the context of our understanding of new biology.



His latest book 'The Science of Leonardo' explores how Leonardo's journey to science through art makes him an important pioneer of systems' science or holistic science

Thus what we have in Capra is a life long search for holistic perspective something that VK-nardep shares through its own tech-quest.

A Blessing



The Mother's heart, the hero's will,
The softest flowers' sweetest feel;
The charm and force that ever sway
The altar-fire's flaming play;
The strength that leads, in love obeys;
Far-reaching dreams, and patient ways,
Eternal faith in Self, in all,
The light Divine in great, in small;
All these and more than I could see,
Today may "Mother" grant to thee!

-Swami Vivekananda

An Act of Compassion



Once an Ashram deer was attacked by some animal and the wounds turned from bad to worse. Sri Bhagavan sat near the deer and held its face in his hands, looking at its tearful eyes. Sri Bhagavan sat like that for a couple of hours. Chinnaswami (Ramana Maharshi's younger brother) asked the person standing close, to look after the deer and relieve Sri Bhagavan. Sri Bhagavan heard this but did not make any response. Sri Bhagavan sat there till the deer breathed its last. That was the compassion that Sri Bhagavan had for that deer. Soon after, Sri Bhagavan went to the hall. There is a Samadhi for the deer in the Ashram.

Practice the vocabulary of love - unlearn the language of hate and contempt. Of all the righteous acts, help rendered to those needing it, is the most righteous .The acid test by which an activity can be confirmed as holy or sacred is to examine whether it promotes attachment or avoids bondage.
- Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Science of human possibilities

The great men of the past have given us glimpses of what is possible in the way of personality, of intellectual understanding, of spiritual achievement, of artistic creation. But these are scarcely more than Pisgah glimpses. We need to explore and map the whole realm of human possibility, as the realm of physical geography has been explored and mapped. How to create new possibilities for ordinary living? What can be done to bring out the latent capacities of the ordinary man and woman for understanding and enjoyment; to teach people the techniques of achieving spiritual experience (after all, one can acquire the technique of dancing or tennis, so why not of mystical ecstasy or spiritual peace?); to develop native talent and intelligence in the growing child, instead of frustrating or distorting them? ... We are beginning to realize that even the most fortunate people are living far below capacity, and that most human beings develop not more than a small fraction of their potential mental and spiritual efficiency. The human race, in fact, is surrounded by a large area of unrealized possibilities, a challenge to the spirit of exploration.



-Julian Huxley
 Evolutionary Biologist



Knowledge and Wisdom

Few of us ever try to still the mind, but in reality, it is from the still mind that many wondrous discoveries and inventions have taken birth.

Knowledge is like a river. Its nature is to constantly flow. Wherever it can flow, it does so, nourishing culture. On the other hand, the same knowledge, if devoid of values becomes a source of destruction for the world. When values and knowledge become one, there can be no more powerful instrument for the welfare of humankind. Today, physicists have even begun investigating the possibility that the essential substratum of the manifest universe and the individual are one and the same. We are standing on the threshold of a new era wherein material science and spirituality will move forward hand in hand.

It is Amma's prayer that we develop the expansive-mindedness to embrace both scientific knowledge and spiritual wisdom. We can no longer afford to see these two streams of knowledge as flowing in opposite directions. In truth, they complement one another. If we merge these streams, we will find that we are able to create a mighty river—a river whose waters can remove suffering and spread life to all of humanity



- Mata Amritanandamayi
 Woman spiritual leader



Of cooking with eggs and the Self

Now let me tell you a secret. You cannot possibly be a good cook unless you like to pick up an onion in your hands, look it over, and say 'Oh, isn't that lovely?' Or feel an egg. I think an egg is one of the most beautiful shapes on Earth, and you take it up, and although it's an opaque shell, it has a kind of subtle, luminous transparency to it. Especially when you see the variations between white eggs and brown eggs, and you look at those things and you just love them. Now unless you have that feeling, you can't cook. You may follow recipes, you may have had a training course, you may have had everything. But everything you're going to cook, unless you have that feeling, is going to taste as though it's been washed in detergent, and you can tell...

. So then, the relationship of self to other is the complete realization that loving yourself is impossible without loving everything defined as other than yourself. In fact, the more you try to think about what your self is, the more you discover that you can only think about yourself in terms of things that you thought were other than yourself.

Alan Watts

Zen Philosopher

