

Echoes of Eco



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Vivekananda Kendra- **nardep** Newsletter

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Unity of Existence: Real Education



The theory of evolution, which is the foundation of almost all the Indian schools of thought, has now made its way into the physical science of Europe. It has been held by the religions of all other countries except India that the universe in its entirety is composed of parts distinctly separate from each other. God, nature, man—each stands by itself, isolated from one another; likewise, beasts, birds, insects, trees, the earth, stones, metals, etc., are all distinct from one another; God created them separate from the beginning.

Knowledge is to find unity in the midst of diversity—to establish unity among things which appear to us to be different from one another. That particular relation by which man finds this sameness is called Law. This is what is known as Natural Law.

I have said before that our education, intelligence, and thought are all spiritual, all find expression in religion.

In the West, their manifestation is in the external—in the physical and social planes.

Thinkers in ancient India gradually came to understand that that idea of separateness was erroneous, that there was a connection among all those distinct objects—there was a unity which pervaded the whole universe—trees, shrubs, animals, men, Devas, even God Himself; the Advaitin reaching the climax in this line of thought declared all to be but the manifestations of the One. In reality, the metaphysical and the physical universe are one, and the name of this One is Brahman; and the perception of separateness is an error—they called it Mâyâ, Avidyâ or nescience. This is the end of knowledge. If this matter is not comprehended at the present day by anyone ... how is one to be regarded as an educated scholar (Pandit)?

[An excerpt from Swami Vivekananda's lecture 'Progress of Civilization']

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Hymn to the Ants



***The gods have given,
the sun has given,
the earth has given,
the three Sarasvatīs, of one
mind, have given
Ants
as poison-destroying (remedy)!***

***That water, O ants, which the
gods poured for you into the dry
land, with this (water), sent forth
by the gods, do ye destroy this
poison!***

***Thou art the daughter of the
Asuras, thou art the sister of the
Devas. Sprung from heaven and
earth, thou didst render the
poison devoid of strength.***

-Atharva Veda





All living beings have experience of pleasure and pain, and we are among them. What makes human beings different is that we have a powerful intelligence and a much greater ability to achieve happiness and avoid suffering. Real happiness and friendship come not from money or even knowledge, but from warm-heartedness. Once we recognise this we will be more inclined to cultivate it. – His Holiness Dalai Lama



Hanuman Kund Teertham : Renovation Work

Before Renovation

Work Progressing

NOW...

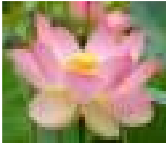
Draupadi Teertham : Renovation Work

Before Renovation

Work Progressing

NOW...

To know more about Rameshwaram Teertham Project: Contact Secrerary, VK-nardep at vknardep@gmail.com



*"Today physicists are simply proving that what we call an object - an atom, a molecule, a particle is only an approximation, a metaphor. At the subatomic level, it dissolves into a series of interconnections, like chords of music. It's beautiful."
~ Sonia Hoffman*



Nakula and Sahadeva Teerthams : Renovation work



Before Renovation



Work Progressing



NOW ...



Jata Teerthams : Renovation work



Before Renovation



Work Progressing



NOW ...



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Each seeker has a special role to play in the protection of our small planet. It is the illumination of the individual mind and spirit that will precede the awakening of a new collective awareness. The change in individual attitudes will be the precursor of a change in institutional policies, and the result will be a greater respect and love for our planet Earth.

– Sri Chinmoy



Sustainable Agriculture This month

Training programme on “Azolla Cultivation Technology” was conducted at VK-nardep TRC, Kalluvilai on 22nd of this month. 7 farmers participated. The resource person was Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai.



Azolla Workshop: participants Watching Azolla being fed to the cow

Workshop on “Sustainable Agriculture” was organized by the Dept. of Forest, Govt. of Tamilnadu, Aralvoimozhi, (Kanyakumari district) at the village of Ramanathichanputhur on 18th of this month and 56 beneficiaries attended the workshop. The Resource Person was Shri.S.Rajamony



Ethno Medical Science Workshop: lecture session



Indigenous Holistic Medicine This month

Green Health Home of VK-nardep functioned for 6 days and treated 92 patients.

Workshop on “Ethno Medical Science” was conducted on 4th and 5th of this month at the TRC of VK-nardep. 72 persons including Vaidyas attended the workshop. The resource person was Dr.V.Ganapathy.

Done with DST core support



Ethno Medical Science Workshop: Demonstration



Ethno Medical Science Workshop: Studying Herbal formulations



Renewable Energy This month

Training programme on “Shakthi-Surabhi Bio-methanation Technology” was held on 22nd of this month at TRC, Kalluvilai. The Resource Person: was Shri.V.Ramakrishnan.

Done with DST core support



Training programme on “Bio-methanation Technology” was organized by *Hand in Hand, India*, and held at their Coimbatore venue on 28th of this month. 40 persons attended the training programme and the Resource Person was Shri.V.Ramakrishnan.

Construction of Biogas Plants

Shakti Surabhi -1 cum: 5 plants
Shakti Surabhi - 6 cum:1 plant
Shakti Surabhi (fixed)
– 2cum:1 plant



Ethno Medical Science Workshop: This workshop is about sharing the knowledge across each other and across generations. By creating a platform for sharing the knowledge we conserve it and create awareness about this precious non-tangible wealth.



All members of an ecological community are interconnected in a vast and intricate network of relationship, the web of life. Interdependence, the mutual interdependence of all life process on one another is the nature of all ecological relationship. - Fritjof Capra



**Water Management
This month**

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



Community Exposure Visit: Age is no bar to learn sustainable technologies. Here the farming community learns about green technologies and get exposure to technology as well as concepts in sustainable development.



Community Exposure Visit: Lectures at open ground and in greener environment. The ambience of the surroundings adds to the spirit of the subject learnt. It is an experience at different levels in a collective harmony.



**Networking: This
month**

Study Tour of farmers to Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram was organized by Tamilnadu Forest Training College, Vaigai Dam on 22nd and 50 Farmers learned sustainable agricultural technologies, herbal medicines, rain water harvesting and Construction technologies.



Community Exposure Visit: At Gramodaya park which houses multimedia panels on different aspects of sustainable development farmers glimpse at the possibility of a greener future.



Community Exposure Visit: Live models of green technology provide the farmers a hand-on-feel and inspire them to try and experiment with them at their own local environments.



**Networking: This
month**

Five Study Tours of farmers was organized by District Watershed Development Agency, Dindigul to Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 7th, 14th, 20th, 24th and 27th. Totally 600 farmers learned sustainable agricultural technologies, herbal medicines, rain water harvesting and Construction technologies.



Shri.G.Vasudeo read a paper on “Holistic Model for Sustainable Dairy Farming in India” at the National Seminar on “Animal Nutrition and Fodder Security” – World Milk Day, organized by Directorate of Dairy Development, Jharkhand which was held on 1st and 2nd of this month at Ranchi, Jharkhand.





Space is all pervasive and infinite. Clouds appear all on a sudden in it; but their presence does not cause division in space. It is possible for clouds to change in magnitude. But Akasa or space remains ever itself. Akin to Akasa, Awareness is the substratum of the manifested universe, which appears and disappears. No addition or subtraction can be effected in Awareness. It is the eternal Witness. –Swami Chitbavanada



From our Publications



Sustainable Development is not only about innovating new technologies. But it is also about reducing consumption. Reducing consumption essentially means change in the lifestyle. How can change in the lifestyle happen without change in the basic values one holds in his or her life? **Karen Christensen** environmentalist-author speaks of the need to dismantle the consumerist society that has been built by the West and which is now spreading all over the earth onto other societies and culture in a viral way. Our publication **Akshaya Vikas** presents this view of Christensen and poignantly adds that the simple way of life which needs a basic change in the values of consumerist and commercialized society also means going back to the basic values of all spiritual teachings whose common essence has always been simple way of living. The following is an excerpt from Akshaya Vikas which speaks about changing the lifestyle of individuals as an important step in sustainable development.

CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE



All spiritual teachings around the world stress on simplicity in the conduct of one's life.



CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE

“The real challenge is to find a way of dismantling the consumer society and replacing it with a society rich in satisfactions and pleasures which make shopping and material acquisition pale by comparison. The switch depends on individual lifestyle changes and an increase in creative expression, as well as on a restoration of community bonds and determination to find ways of demonstrating a way of life which is attractive and exciting. As our values change, our ideas about appropriate consumption will change naturally and painlessly.



Music should continue

Telling people that they will have to consume less is a mistake. We ought to be talking about a more satisfying and sustaining society (in which, as it happens, we will consume less), not one of hardship and deprivation. By demonstrating that we can find our satisfactions in our work, in physical activity and the natural world, and in loving relationships, by living with vitality and joy and courage without becoming smug or puritanical, we have a good chance of promoting the necessary changes in the values of our society.”

- Karen Christensen



Humanity's true moral test, its fundamental test, consists of its attitude toward those who are at its mercy: animals. And in this respect, human kind has suffered a fundamental debacle, a debacle so fundamental that all others stem from it.

–Sri Aurobindo



Dharma of Technology

So, if we agree that possibilities exist in India which don't exist anywhere else, then perhaps it is for Indian scientists and technologists to think about the dharma of technology. That you can do by practicing and understanding dharma yourself, but also thinking deeply about what the technology of dharma should be. The technology of dharma, if nothing else, should be to uplift the most wretched sections of society, to make the fruits of affluence and wealth available to many people, and to do this as non-violently as possible, with the least damage to people's eco-systems ...

The first step is to bridge the gulf, end the dualism. That can only be done when some technologists will go and actually live in the villages. In a certain vision of what India should be, every village will have one or two technologists. Every village will have an advanced communication centre, one or two good doctors--and you don't need very high technology for this. Every village will be able to shape its own destiny and future, and have the right kind of technology, and people will spend time trying to figure out what that village needs as opposed to what a Tata or Birla needs in the city. This, to say the least, will be the Dharma of Technology. And with more and more serious thought on this vital issue, perhaps a new kind of science, a new way, at any rate, of doing science may be born in this land.



-Makarand Paranjape
Author



Dharma of Ecology

The Himalayan sages taught me first the gospel of nature. Then I started listening to the music coming from the blooming flowers, from the songs of the birds and even from the smallest blade of grass and thorn of the bush. In everything lives the evidence of the beautiful. If one does not learn to listen to the music of nature and appreciate her beauty, then that which impels man to seek love at its fountain may be lost in the remotest antiquity. Do you need psychological analysis to discover in nature the source of so much happiness, of so many songs, dreams and beauties? This gospel of nature speaks its parables from the glacial streams, the valleys laden with lilies, the forests covered with flowers and the light of stars. This gospel reveals that emphatic knowledge through which one learns truth and beholds the good in all its majesty and glory. When one learns to hear the music of nature and appreciate her beauty, then his soul moves in harmony with its entire environment. His every movement and every sound will surely then find its due place in human society. The mind of man should be trained to love nature before he looks through the corridor of his life. Then a revelation comes peeping through with the dawn. The pain and miseries of life disappear with the darkness and the mist when the sun rises.



Swami Rama
Mystic Yogi



Dharma of Nature

We can imagine that if there is any root similarity between the inanimate world and the conscious world, it must be the all-pervading energy, or the heat in matter. After a considerable time science has discovered that when we look at matter, however, inert it may seem superficially and devoid of sparks, there is a kind of illuminating process that goes on unobtrusively within it. This illuminating spark in its subtle form manifests itself in life; moreover, it manifests itself further in yet a subtler form in consciousness and mind. As we find there is nothing but this great luminous spark in the beginning of creation, we have to own that this consciousness is its manifestation. By raising layers of coverings one by one from the inanimate to the animate, it is constantly aiming to unfold this greater consciousness in man by gradually removing all its shrouded veils. This evolved freedom of consciousness is perhaps the ultimate destiny of creation. ... The earth, water and light, fruits and flowers, to her (India), were not merely physical phenomena to be turned to use and then left aside, were necessary to her in the attainment of her ideal of perfection, as every note is necessary to the completeness of the symphony.



Rabindranath Tagore
Poet