

PRAYER प्रार्थना

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सह नावतु । सह नौ भुनक्तु । सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।

तेजस्वि नाव धीतमस्तु । मा विद्विषावहै ।

ओं शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

- तैत्तिरीयोपनिषद्

Om

- Let this protect both of us together.
- Let this be enjoyed by both of us.
- Let us put our shoulders to the wheel together.
- Let the thing learnt by both of us be powerful.
- Let us not hate each other.
- Om ! peace ! peace ! peace !

Integrated Village **Development with Indian** **Culture**



WHAT IS A VILLAGE

A village is a combination of houses situated together for sociability and defense and land surrounding the living is farmed. This farmland might extend for as much as a mile(1.6km) and each family is having different proportions of land.

INDIAN VILLAGE – The name itself brings in a lot of happiness and fun-filled memories.

- Villages are very beautiful to see, having very pleasant nature.
- Clean Environment.
- Pure air is obtained by villages.
- 90% of crops came from only villages.
- Villages having (forest areas) medical plants. It gives medical support to us.
- Some villages are being tourist places.

How did Lord Macaulay of British Empire view us in 1835 A.D.

“I have travelled across the length and breadth of India and I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief, such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would ever conquer this country unless we break the very backbone of this nation, which is

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her spiritual and cultural heritage.

Therefore, I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation.”

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British successfully did just that; first by offering lucrative jobs to the learned people of the Villages into administration of the Land, thus depriving the masses of good governance and guidance (which were in vogue since Chola Dynasty); then bringing their own missionary to replace Indian Culture, heritage and Gurukulam.

How do we get back our self esteem and glory ?

To get back to our old glory, it is essential to understand the present status of our Villages and then go about Integrated Village Development including Indian Culture.

The way forward for the Villages:

Present Status of Villages

People in villages majorly depend on agriculture and their main source of income is cultivation. Their regular life cycle in terms of **earning money** is that cultivating two to three crops a year, transporting the cultivated food or other products to the nearby towns, selling the cultivated raw material either through middlemen or direct selling. We can see lot of unity and cool environment in Indian villages. Though few families have disputes in their routine life due to any factor, they join together to fight against any issue that disturbs their village and solve it effectively with dedication.

Spirituality, the Life-centre of Indian Culture

अध्यात्मविध्या

सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे संतु निरामयाः ।

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखभागभवेत् ॥

May everybody be happy, may everybody be free from disease, may everybody see goodness, may none fall on evil days.

Indian civilization is time immemorial. During this long period it produced a unique type of highly advanced and variegated culture. In spite of the innumerable regional, social and linguistic diversities of the country, there has always been a basic unity in Indian culture. Moreover, this culture maintained unbroken continuity from Vedic times to

Spirituality, the Life-centre of Indian Culture – contd.

the present day, in spite of countless wars within the country, invasions from outside and two centuries of subjugation by the British. This indestructible unity and unbroken continuity of Indian culture are derived from its deep spiritual foundations.

नमोऽस्तु ते व्यास विशालबुद्धे फुल्लारविन्दायतमत्रनेत्र ।

येन त्वया भारततैलपूर्णः प्रज्वालितो ज्ञानमयप्रदीपः ॥

Oh! Salutations to Vyas with grand knowledge and eyes like the wide leaf of a fully blossomed lotus, (since) it was you who lighted the lamp of Knowledge filled with the oil (in the form) of Mahabhaarata.

Definition of Culture (संस्कृति)

By definition, Culture is : the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behaviour that depends upon the capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations.

Culture is simply how we live and what we do in the course of this living. It is not a static entity.

अगस्त्य-वामदेवादीन् शिवभक्तान् महामुनीन् ।

देवीभक्तान् ह्यग्रीवदुर्वासःप्रभृतीन् भजे ॥

In this blissful morning, I bow to the Great Sages Agasthiar, Vamadevar who are followers of Lord Siva and Hayagrivar, Durvasar who are followers of Sri Devi.

Culture – contd.

When someone asks me to define Indian Culture, my first thoughts are the language, the food, art, dances, clothing, movies, and religion. But then when I actually delve into it a little further, I go beyond these things. From our everyday life, we can come up with many examples of Indian Culture.

माता पिता गुरु देवम्

Maathaa, pitha, guru, devam (deivam)

Our strong family values are shown in the way in which we care for our grandparents, parents, sisters and brothers. These are not things that we tell our children (well - maybe, just a tiny bit). Instead, they see it by our example.

The Heritage of India (परम्परा)

- The Heritage of India is the result of developments in the social, economic, cultural and political life of the Indian people over a period of thousands of years.

नमः सर्वहितार्थाय जगदाधरहेतवे ।

साष्टाङ्गोऽयं प्रणामस्ते प्रयत्नेन मया कृतः ॥

My Salutations to you, Oh Lord, who is responsible for the welfare of all beings and who supports this world, which you have created. I fully prostrate to you and request your help for success in my efforts.

- Land and People: Two basic components of this heritage, which have at the same time shaped this heritage, are

The heritage of India – contd.

the land, the natural and physical environment of India, and the people who have inhabited this land.

त्रैलोक्यपावनीं गङ्गां यमुना च सरस्वतीम् ।

नर्मदां गौतमीं सिन्धुं कावेरीं संस्मराम्यसम् ॥

In the lovely sunrise, I offer my obeisance to Holy Rivers, Ganga, Yamuna, Saraswati , Narmada, Gauthami, Sindu, Kaveri, which purifies all the three worlds namely Heaven, Earth and Pathal.

A remarkable feature of Indian historical and cultural development has been its continuity. This continuity has few parallels in the history of other civilizations.

The heritage of India – contd.

चेतः सद्मनि सेवेऽहं पादपङ्केरुहद्वयम् ।

मन्मातापितृपादानां हेतूनां मम जन्मनः ॥

In my heart, I prostrate before the lotus feet of my mother and father who have given birth to me.

Successive Rulers since the ancient period have contributed to development of Ancient Indian Literature, Languages, Paintings, Art and Architecture, Temples, Music and Dance, Philosophy, Astronomy and Astrology, Medicine etc. The States supported Scholars, Artists, Poets, scores of Skilled personnel.

The heritage of India – contd.

Indian culture is rich and diverse. People give respect to their traditional values and hence its greatness was recognized all over the world. The Villages are well planned. The design of houses, huts, temples were eco-friendly and one with nature. Lifestyle of people living in Village, Town and City levels differs a lot.

SMALL SCALE BUSINESS IN VILLAGES

- KHADI & HANDLOOM
- SERICULTURE
- HANDICRAFT
- VILLAGE INDUSTRIES
- COIR
- BELL METAL
- FOOD PROCESSING

PEOPLE POTENTIAL IN VILLAGES

- HARD WORKERS
- UNITY
- CULTURAL VALUES
- POSITIVE ATTITUDE
- SKILLS IN ARTS AND CRAFTS

Indian Village as a Strength

- CONTRIBUTION IN GDP
- DEPENDENCY
- SMALL SCALE BUSINESS
- GOOD ENVIRONMENT
- LIMITED WANTS
- TRADITION AND CULTURE
- PEOPLE POTENTIAL
- CONTENTMENT AND LIMITED WANTS

WHAT AILS INDIAN VILLAGES

- LESS AWARENESS
- OLD BELIEFS
- NOT HAVING PROPER FACILITIES
- AGRICULTURE MAY NOT YIELD THEM SUFFICIENT MONEY TO SUSTAIN
- MOVE TOWARDS CITIES
- EROSION IN THE VALUES OF VILLAGE

What are our aspirations ?

- don't want our villages to become a city by collapsing the farming lands & build luxurious buildings.
- want education like in the city.
- want employment like in the city.
- want transport facilities like city.
- want our time tested tradition and values to continue for generations to come.

Contribution of agriculture in GDP

India gross domestic product (GDP) means the total value of all the services and goods that are manufactured within the territory of the nation within the specified period of time.

The country has the second fastest major growing economy in the whole world with the GDP growing at the rate over of 9% in the last 5 years. Today, India ranks second in worldwide farm output, thanks to the villages.

Definition of Integrated Village Development

Urban Amenities in Rural Areas

- physical connectivity of village clusters through quality roads and transport
- Electricity connectivity by bringing power to the villages
- electronic connectivity through telecommunication
- Empowerment of women in villages

Definition of Integrated Village Development - contd.

- knowledge connectivity through education, skill training for farmers, artisans and crafts persons and entrepreneurship programs.
- places for cultural activities and sports, community programs
- economic connectivity through the establishment of enterprises with the help of banks, micro credit and marketing of products
- preservation and maintenance of Heritage places and temples
- preservation of water table / resources

A Small Beginning

- My Village by name Vellur is in the Thiruvannamalai - Vellore, about 32 km from Vellore Town. When I visited our village in early 2007, after nearly 40 years, I felt that I will fall in my own self esteem if I fail to give back something to the village development. I started a Trust by name Vellur Heritage Welfare Trust to provide the impetus required. Two main areas of our thrust were Temple Renovation and support to education. We made improvements to 13 temples in the village and also supported festivals conducted by the communities without any differentiation. *Under the guidance of our most Revered Gurus of Kanchi Sankara Mutt, we are initiating further developmental activities in the village.*

Organisations which are good references in India for village development

- Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, Indo-French Center, Indo-FRG, and National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVODB)
- EEA (Environment Education and Awareness) area under Youth Education and Action division of TERI
- Climate EduXchange, an ongoing project in partnership with Dell Computers.
- TERI's 'Lighting a Billion Lives' to bring light into the lives of many more people in India
- the project supported by Toyota and implemented by TERI, farmers are now learning to diversify their crops, add value, and directly market and sell them to consumers

Sri Tripurasundari Sametha Sri Yaghneswarar Temple, Vellur Village, Polur Taluk (near Padavedu)



New padithurai named after HH Sri Sri Vijayendrasaraswati Swamigal



Kamandala (Naga) Nadhi



Kamandala (Naga) Nadhi



Visit to Trust Garden (nandavanam)



Visit on 3rd April 2008



Visit on 23rd July 2010



Mahatma Gandhiji said :

"Really Village is Backbone of our India"...
as a village person I also want village should
have all the facilities like city WITHOUT
AFFECTING THE ESSENCE OF VILLAGE
ENVIRONMENT ...

CONCLUSION

While the above would bring about social changes and lead to better way of life, what needs to be focused for success is namely *“modern outlook with traditional values developed over centuries”* for integration of Indian Culture with development for sustained good living in villages

PRAYER प्रार्थना

निधाय हृदि विश्वेशं विधाय गुरु वन्दनम् ।
बालानाम् सुख बोधाय क्रियते तर्कसंग्रहः ॥

Having the creator in mind and after paying respects to the masters, this essence of logic is provided here, in order that the learners could gain clear and easy wisdom.

- T A R K A S A N G R A H A

THANKS FOR

KIND

ATTENTION