



## THE IMPORTANCE OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

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### INTRODUCTION

Most of the old civilizations of the world are dead and gone, but India has continued to maintain, develop and enrich its cultural heritage. With the spirit of unity amid diversity, non-violence and tolerance has made it one of the oldest civilization, in the world. It has the age old concepts of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is a family) and 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav' (equal respect for all faiths) Vasudhaivakutumbakam has guided the nation since Vedic times and India is still regarded as the spiritual leader of the world.

### MEANING

It is a Sanskrit phrase meaning that the whole earth is one family. The first word is made up of three Sanskrit words - Vasudha, Eva and Kutumbakam. Vasudha means the earth, Eva means emphasizing and Kutumbakam means a family. It means that the whole earth is just one family.

### ORIGIN

The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam originates in the Vedic scripture Maha Upanishad (Chapter 6, Verse 72): Hitopadesha (1.3.71) -. Similar reference is found in Sanskrit fables, Panchatantra (5.3.37). from Hitopadesha. Hitopadesha is a collection of Sanskrit fables in prose and verse. According to the author of Hitopadesha, Narayana, the main purpose of creating the Hitopadesha is to instruct young minds the philosophy of life in an easy way so that they are able to grow into responsible adults. It is almost similar to the Panchatantra. The whole philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is an integral part of the Hindu Philosophy.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a philosophy that inculcates an understanding that the whole world is one family. It is a philosophy that tries to foster an understanding that the whole of humanity is one family. It is a social philosophy emanating from a spiritual understanding that the whole of humanity is made of one life energy.

### Role of Yoga & Meditation

The Indian philosophy teaches us to treat the whole world as our family, which is captured in the Sanskrit phrase, "Vasudhaiva kutumbakam". Our Upanishads preach "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah..... Sarve Santu Niramayaah", which means "May all be happy and May all be healthy and free from illness". This only shows that even in ancient times, we prayed for good health for all. But, by our actions, we as humanity tend to create conditions which lead to illness and disease.

In Ancient India, sages of the Vedas and Upanishads, the mystics and the Buddhists have seen this dream of tying the people of the whole world in a common thread of mutual love, trust and friendship. They have attained this to a great extent in Ancient India. This was made possible only through Yoga and Meditation. And this platform was simple, secure, and scalable. And the whole system was sustainable. They have called this dream as a Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

We are happy to note that the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, with cosponsorship from 177 countries, to observe 21st June as the International day of Yoga.

### Importance of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

When the entire world becomes one family most of the world problem will disappear. How a mother runs the house hold to the best interest of the all the members of the family without compromising the minimum needs of each member shall be the motto of the governments and the organizations the world over.

Human life has meaning only when it is used in the service of others. There are two central concepts that support this. One is the concept of "Daridra Narayana" (God is in the destitute) and another is "Manava Seva is Madhava Seva" (to serve man is to serve God) in creating man, God has high hopes for mankind. Since he gave them intelligence and imposed the requirement of personal responsibility. He is probably disappointed in his decisions.

In the ultimate analysis, human history has no permanence. But everything is temporal. However, in short term, it has only meaning, if we work to improve the planet that we have inherited

### Key components in establishing the Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

1) Organizing Global Peace Projects- through art and culture we spread worldwide interest of wellness for mankind - greatest pilgrimage festivals in India such as mahakumbhmela. Worldwide interest to start promoting a multidimensional development, if not at least a local interest. Citizenship is incomplete when basic needs aren't solved, when the survival conditions are under the line of poverty. Solving these needs is a warranty of a proper government, it's a reflection from committed business people as well, and it confirms the solidarity and the fact that if you are needy I am as well, due to "the whole world is one family

2) The youth can be motivated towards philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (Whole world is my family) for local as well as global harmony. The concept of vasudhaiva kutumbakam—the world is but one family—culture of peace and global citizenship should be inducted into all aspects of human life.

3) There is a need to create Peace Museums and Peace Galleries to help promote a better understanding of other people and cultures around the world. Organization of Peace Festivals and Peace Rallies has become a regular feature in the peace movement

4) There is necessity for drastic change in the mind set from self-centric to thinking of World as one family—Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, from the western democratic concept of "Dignity of Man" to Indian concept of "Divinity of Man" and from the concept of "Survival of the fittest" to the "Survival of the weakest". The qualities of sacrificing and sharing should predominate the nature of man. Service driven activity becomes divine and useful to society while commerce driven activity becomes demonic and is harmful to society. There is need for spiritual ambience in the society. A spiritual person irrespective of any religion in the true sense of the word, should exhibit the qualities of compassion, contentment, charity, forgiveness, truthfulness, gentleness, simplicity, purity, sacrifice, sharing, service to community and love to God and His creation, the Nature. It is easier said than done. Desire and effort to attain Spiritual nature, must be cultivated. Yoga Way of Living or Yogism is an art of living in harmony with Nature and concern to the whole humanity. In brief live Simple, live Spiritual and live to Serve. Yogism should be made a movement with its eternal values and universal characteristics. All activities should be treated as service to the people and charge for sustenance and not as business making enormous profit by exploiting the masses.

The statement is not just about peace and harmony among the societies in the world, but also about a truth that somehow the whole world has to live by some rules like a family, set by an unknowable source. Just by contemplating this idea and by at least trying to live by it and practice it in our lives, we could make this world a better place.

5) Element of Service in Curriculum Service to mankind is service to God can only be translated into action when curriculum provides ample opportunity for the teachers and learners. Therefore the element of social service dimension in line must be incorporated in school curricula so that the learner get firsthand experience of challenges of life, develop critical analysis faculty to respond to crisis and challenges faced by the society from time to time

6) Social Responsibility the conscious global corporate citizens want to give something back and help others in the world, society and mankind. People should have at least the basics required for existence in human form. Out of all the agendas and priorities, this human angle is not to be left out. Corporations through Corporate Social Responsibility programs and philanthropy, can make a difference by carrying out activities that benefit the society at large. That way, the human feelings are refined to accommodate the needs of others as laid down in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

## 7) WORLD PEACE THROUGH ARTICLE 51 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA:

There are countless persons or organizations in the world who advocate world peace and world unity. But the constitution of India is a unique written document which calls for world peace and world unity. Our forefathers were great visionaries for advocating world peace and world unity. Therefore, they incorporated article 51 in the constitution of India to enjoin the government to work for the unity of mankind in the spirit of our ancient belief of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Taking a cue from this article of the constitution of India our school is trying to build a global opinion for formation of a World Parliament and a World Government so that the entire world becomes one country and the mankind its citizens.

## 8) PRACTICING UNIVERSAL HUMAN VALUES

These brief definitions are also helpful for parents wishing to apply the Human Values in the home situation. With both teachers and parents working together to provide the children with a human values framework for a sound moral philosophy, the opportunities for healing and personal growth are greatly enhanced. In seeking to practice the human values in everyday life, students will be guided by the following aims:

### LOVE

To love everybody unconditionally. The Biblical Quotation "Love the neighbor's thyself is very much relevant. To develop compassion, kindness, generosity and greatness of spirit to care for our environment, each other and ourselves

### TRUTH

To speak and act truthfully and confidently with a clean and clear conscience to develop wisdom, the power of reason, intuition and a sense of inquiry. To understand the oneness of all creation and the truth behind all faiths Peace

To develop self-respect, concentration, inner contentment and calmness to cooperate with and value the contributions of others, including their constructive feedback concerning our behavior to develop forgiveness, patience, forbearance and self-control

### RIGHT CONDUCT

To practice acceptance of good and rejection of the bad according to the law and one's own conscience. To develop respect for parents, teachers and elders and to accept responsibility for one's own actions to develop self-reliance, exercise initiative and to do one's best at everything one attempts

### NON-VIOLENCE

To avoid harming others in thought, word and deed To develop reverence and concern for all living beings, all of nature and to engage in acts of selfless service to practice forbearance and tolerance towards others

### 9) TRUSTEESHIP

The philosophy of sharing with others gave India a unique philosophy in which the entire world is treated as one family. This is immortalized in the phrase Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the whole Earth is one family). In our lifetime, Mahatma Gandhi propounded the principle of

trusteeship, in which neither nations nor individuals are the possessors of wealth and property. These are to be used for the good of the people and shared by all according to their needs. Unless the world understands this, we will never be able to eliminate inequality and deprivation and all our ideals of peace and happiness will remain a dream.

## 10) Expansion of spiritual activates worldwide through different missions

The Chinmayand Mission is a living example of universal brotherhood. The mission has been exhibiting the ideal model of a world family, where all are treated as human beings irrespective of caste, creed, religion or gender. It is an all-embracing world-wide socio-spiritual and charitable organization. We preach and practice the concept of one family. The Mission draws upon the shared and accumulated wisdom of our common heritage to encourage harmony in human relationship.

## Vasudhaiva kutumbakam in other countries

One of the most pluralist society of modern world with people all around the globe. The Western countries like Canada reflects the cultural diversity in a country, something that is the preaching and objective of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Besides, Canada, the other countries that widely follows and accept the concept of Multicultural are Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, United States, South Korea, Bulgaria and India.

Recently in India and Finland, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam associations have been formed. The Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam initiative engages actively with the World Social Forum. In practice, this means taking part in local, national, regional and global social forums as organizer of events and information agency.

## CONCLUSION

In the words of Toynbee the 20th century British historian "Science and technology are man's outstanding success, but human relations are the outstanding failure" Technology beyond human control is one of the gravest dangers before mankind. When the knowledge of technology is wrongly applied, it gives severe jolts to the mankind. Ethics and human values cures such curses.

Peace must begin from the individual, from the house and it must go to the society and then the world. Achieving global peace must begin with each person first attaining an inner peace. It is impossible to achieve inner peace when you are full of hate, suspicion and fear. Genuine peace must come through inner peace. Taking care of others is the best guarantee for your own happy future.

Inculcation of the Spirit of "Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam" can usher in World Peace. With true enlightenment a person rises above the level of boundaries of race, religion, language or nation. Unless our mental horizon and perception is broad we cannot achieve success in life. Due to our ignorance we are trying to establish the superiority of our own race or religion. The cause of today's dangerous situation is the ignorance of mankind. It is by understanding the spirit of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam that world peace can be ushered in this world. It is imperative that Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam becomes mission for everyone, reaching the state of, "Finally we are one family". Whatever work we do, we are human beings first. Let us all resolve today that: 'Become anything possible, but before doing so, be a good human being first'.

Let us work together for Peace. We have only one religion that is Humanity.

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