



## Spiritual Economics: Embracing Self Realization In Materialism

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### ABSTRACT

*As we all know that huge transformation is taking place in our system and with this change, today, the major challenge in front of us is the understanding of the material and non-material dimensions of our human survival. Conscious economics is about the seeing dichotomy between mind and matter. This dichotomy however is false, as it is a product of our intellectual device when that device is functioning within a consensus reality.*

*Our mission is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation by promoting the humanization of economics and of economists, through Education of Spiritual Economics and by implication, i.e. one should not be allowed to practice economics unless one is on the path of self realization, at least in the arena of public policy.*

**Keywords : Spiritual, Consciousness, Economics, Transformation**

### INTRODUCTION

Economy is the principle of the protection of life and energy i.e. to maintain the proper balance in its internally adjusted parts. Economic conditions do not exhaust themselves merely in gold and silver, land and property. Economy is the proper use of the forces of life and the mentioned aberrations constitute their abuse or misuse.

As we all know that huge transformation is taking place in our system and with this change, today, the major challenge in front of us is the understanding of the material and non-material dimensions of our human survival. As, the life of the individual is directly connected with the economy of social survival. The social action of the individual is naturally the expression of the inner make-up of the individual emotions and materialism. This constitutes three things those are Need, Want and Desire. Thus it is necessary to understand between the emotions and materialism, and this understanding can be called **"the reconciliation between economics and spirituality"**, i.e. bringing together the economics and spirituality. For many people this may sound a serious contradiction in terms, when economics is seen as the best representative of any material-based-science. It is obvious that people see economics as money and as the science of material scarcity; i.e., how to allocate existing and finite material goods and services among our infinitely large human needs.

Conscious economics is about the seeing dichotomy between mind and matter. This dichotomy however is false, as it is a product of our intellectual device when that device is functioning within a consensus reality. This concept entails that our mind has a non-material, spiritual dimension that includes consciousness and possibly an endless characteristic. One way to understand this concept is to consider our self as a bottle including our physical body and physical brain along with a separate non-physical mind, spirit, or soul.

As quoted by Economist JK Mehta, "Removal of attachment is the wantlessness and possession of the object is fulfillment. The latter method is generally resorted to, as it yields a pleasurable feeling but is inconsistent as physical objects are transient and need to be replaced". Thus temporary feelings of happiness need to be replaced. Mehta (1967, p.27) writes: We attempt to get rid of pain by satisfying our wants, a process that yields pleasure. But pleasure makes no positive contribution to welfare as it merely constitutes (the realization of the fact of) reduction of pain. There is no other way

of getting pleasure except by getting rid of pain. Nor can the satisfaction of wants be, in any sense, a permanent solution; for satisfied wants always have tendency to recur. Satisfaction of a want does not strike at the root cause of pain. To get permanently rid of pain we must sublimate wants, we must conquer and not pamper them.

If we believe that , want signifies sacrifice, it has to be minimized according to the wisdom of economics. The question arises then what kind of economics should it be? As in the rapid transformation process today, one of the questions we must address today is whether the economics we practice today will be the economics we will be practicing in the future. Thus what is the law of economy?

### LAW OF ECONOMY

The Sutra of Patanjali, while giving the highest importance to Ahimsa, Satya and Brahmacharya, mentions the need also to observe the principles of Asteya and Aparigraha; that is, non-stealing and non-acceptance of luxuries or excessive comforts. These fivefold norms laid down by Patanjali in his Yoga-Sutras sum up the law of the economy of life, individually as well as socially, indicating thereby that no one can aspire for perfection who does not strive for the maintenance of internal harmony in one's own thoughts, feelings and volitions, and external harmony through contributions towards peace by trying to give everyone what each one is truly due, and not exploit anyone even covertly by secret commercial means or harm anyone's right to live and let live. This is the duty of each and everyone in human society, and meticulously performed duties are automatically followed by the requisite privileges which come as blessings on everyone as a result of one's good behaviour.

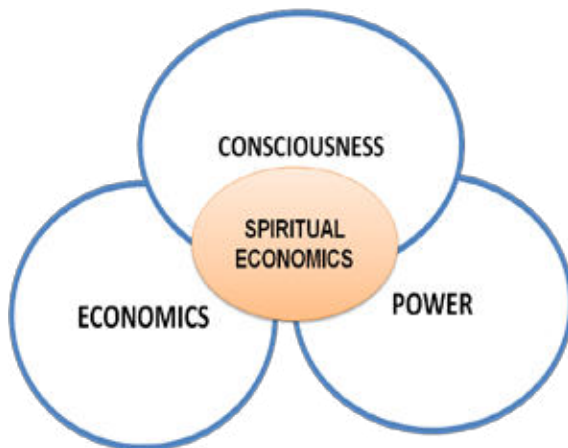
Further, Bhagavad Gita emphasizes the need to work as an obligatory call on each and every person and it also enlightens us as to why we should work at all. The reason is not just the material comforts of social existence but a higher demand from the spiritual side of human nature which in a state of insight beholds the one soul saturate all life and the need to present oneself before others in the light of a presence in others of that which is present in oneself also. The Gita exhorts us to work and serve as a Superman does, nay, as God Himself operates in creation. The Gita provides to mankind the basic principles of the highest programme for civic and social harmony to be maintained by an internal adjustment of people among themselves, not only for their survival, but much more,

their onward progress towards spiritual realisation which is the goal of the individual as well as of society.

**SPIRITUAL ECONOMICS**

The spiritual economics means, an, understanding of spiritual nature of the human being and how the influences of the material energy effect his consciousness, which provides basis for analyzing past and present economic activity. The economic system that is created by the lord and offered to human mankind as a method for dealing with the material necessities of life. To attain the spiritual side of human nature, Strategic Plan is formulated within the 3 spheres of transformation, which as follows:

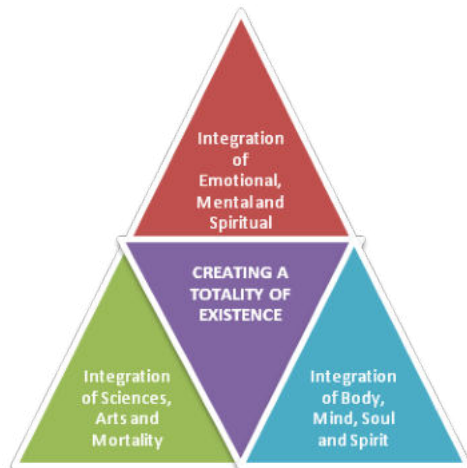
**FIGURE 1: THREE SPHERES OF TRANSFORMATION**



First comes the, economics, i.e. transformation of the society through the creation of a full engagement economic system that creates sustainable village economies which meet the basic needs of all. Followed by, power, the transformation of the political system to establish community self governance, participatory democracy through political and legal empowerment. At last both should be overpower by, consciousness, which is transformation through spiritual, moral & cultural awakening, and deepening societal commitment in order to attain spiritual economics.

Our aim is to attain our own goals in life; material and non-material, individual or collective - depend mainly on our process of 'self realization'. And this self realization could be achieved through the integration of Emotional, Mental and Spiritual, Sciences, Arts and Mortality, Body, Mind, Soul and Spirit.

**FIGURE2: INTEGRATED ECONOMIC VISION**



This is to say, nothing will change if we do not change from within. We will not be able to eliminate economic discrimination just by pouring more money into the economy. A world at peace and free of discrimination begins in our inner soul. Further, we should promote the humanization of economics and of economists. The prime step towards the humanization of economics, on the other hand, is to move away from aggregated categories of analysis that do not tell the real story. Economics with a human face must be practiced now.

Our mission is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation by promoting the **humanization** of economics and of economists, through Education of Spiritual Economics and by implication, i.e. one should not be allowed to practice economics unless one is on the path of self realization, at least in the arena of public policy.

**ECONOMICS OF HUMAN SOUL**

The ultimate step would be to move from an economics with "human face" to an economics with a "human soul", so we understand and interact with the true dimensions of human change and transformation. Economics must be at the service of our societal vision, at the service of what we want our society to be. It is our vision the one that must guide economic thinking and procedures. Our **spiritual dimension** is always an essential component of this vision, as we are not '**material beings**' having a spiritual experience but '**spiritual beings**' having a material experience. At the center stage of the debate of what economics should be all about there is a fundamental fact we must not forget; i.e., that we, human beings, are living on this Planet not just in the pursuit of material welfare and therefore, 'material welfare' is only one aspect of 'human welfare'. Lets us bring the "being" into economics. It is only spiritual economics and spiritual entrepreneurship that truly embody the being of what humanity is all about.

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