

**Research Paper**

## **Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam: A Holistic Understanding Of The Universal Spirit Of Oneness In Rural India**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Sanskrit, the language of the Gods, is the origin of many modern Indian languages and concepts. One such Sanskrit idea is 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam,' which means the world is one. Thus, 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam' counts the entire universe as a family, and all animals and humans who live on it are members of the same family. While it is an old principle, it is more relevant to contemporary times than ever before. A far more methodical form of Indigenous society was found during the Vedic period. The Vedas are also known as 'ancient sages' or 'vishis' as they were used as a source of knowledge by the rishis (sages) and are known as the world's oldest texts. Indian Culture has always been delightful, syncretistic, powerful, and colorful, with a systematic approach to the world and remarkable divine consistency. Humans cannot encounter a more particular vision of universalism than that of VasudhaivaKutumbh, which is promoted by Indian Culture and nations that the entire world is considered a solitary family. The article focuses on how the idea of Indian Vedas, such as 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam,' including its core principle of unity, remains appropriate and effective in addressing conflicts around the world in the modern era. The idea of 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam,' is an essential aspect in promoting a sustainable model of providing social justice through peace and non-violence, as expressed in 'United Nations' sustainable goals.

**Keywords:** VasudhaivaKutumbakam, Indian Vedic Culture, Universalism, Contemporary approach

## INTRODUCTION

सर्वेयभवन्तुसुखिनेहसर्वेयसन्तुनिरामयह  
सुर्वेय्भदरानिनिपश्यन्तुमाकश्चितदुखभाग्भवेत्

*In Indian society, their wish for well-being ever is viewed as universal human religion. The Markandeya Purana (the major Purana, a collection of eighteen Mahapuranas and eighteen Upapuranas) discusses the well-being of all creatures. May all individuals be happy. There is no ailment or psychological trauma in any life form. Be refined through all deeds. For the sake of oneself and one's sons, treat all creatures fairly.*

VasudhaivaKutumbakambelieves that all human civilization is one family because humanity comprises the exact source of life. If the entire world population gets underway to seek for its roots, it may finish up pointing to a solitary human culture on this globe. Love and peaceful coexistence, mutual support, a sense of belonging, and connection are the central features of VasudhaivaKutumbakam. Consider the entire universe, including all nations, to be one and live in peace while caring for one another? Ailments must not regard national limits, manufactured and synthetic in the first place. James Cameron artfully proffered the beautiful notion embedded in the VasudhaivaKutumbakam concept in his 2009 film 'Avatar,' which captured the heart and minds of millions of people worldwide (Lakhanpal, 2018, p. 5). Our pride is in our cultural and traditional diversity. A lawn with various flowers, fragrances, colors, and idolization is beautiful and adds holiness to the garden. In 2018, the number of people forced to flee violence, harassment, and war exceeded 70 million, the highest estimate documented by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in nearly 70 years. Hence, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 viz. 'Peace Justice and Strong Institution' also resemble the idea of VasudhaivaKutumbakam as it considers 'Dispute, vulnerability, weak governance, and restricted protection of rights continue to be a major challenge to long-term development' (United Nations, 2020).

Hence, this study will provide us with a new outlook to see the concept of Oneness to eradicate border conflicts.

### **Vedic Notionsof VasudhaivaKutumbakam :**

This concept of VasudhaivaKutumbakam, or the world, is one family. In contrast to the Western concept of nationhood, which is based on uniformity, the Indian concept of VasudhaivaKutumbakam provides an alternative framework in the form of the ideal of harmony in diversity. This principle holds that the welfare of the whole is the welfare of the individual and vice versa. It provides the basis for cooperation and peace between people and nations, ensuring a just and equitable society regardless of background. The concept of VasudhaivaKutumbakam originates from the ancient Sanskrit text Hitopadesha, a collection of fables and parables on human life and purpose (Kale, 1989, pp. 12-16; Hatcher, 1994, p. 3).

Hitopadesha,

1.3.71:

**‘ayamnijahparovetigananalaghuchetasam  
udaracharitanamtivasudhaivakutumbhakam’**

*'This is mine that belongs to others' – is the narrow-minded calculation. On the other hand, the entire earth is now just a family to the selfless.'*

This lovely Shloka has also written on the first gate of parliament of India. It should always be a principle of the world's Culture. However, it must be rooted in the concept of "Bahujan Sukhaya, BahujanaHitaya." - many people's well-being, many people's happiness. Furthermore, what is going on in the modern world? "SwajanaSukhaya, SwajanaHitaya." We only work for our race and religion. As a result, our value system is weakening (Tiwari, 2007, p. 118)

The concept elaborated in the Gita and Upanishads forms the basis of the Hindu religion. The phrase uttered in Bhavadgita in Shalok (Verse) VII-19, there are several meanings for the Sanskrit root 'vas,' (वस), but We must understand that vas means 'to be' in the context of Bhagavadgita.

There is another artistic instance of the concept mentioned in South Indian poetry written 2500 years back by a Tamil poet KavianPoongundranar on a similar approach to 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam' (Song 192, Purananuru, Sangam literature):

**‘யாதும்ஊரே;**

**யாவரும்களீர்;**

**“YathumOoreYavarumKelir”**

Which means *'Everywhere is my home town; everyone is my family.'*

VasudhaivaKutumbakam believed that all things are one and that the world manifests the Divine. VasudhaivaKutumbakam translates as "universal glue" or "all-encompassing world."

The phrases वसुधैवकुटुम्बकम् (VasudhaivaKutumbakam) has one more derivative from the chants VI-72 in the Hindu scriptures or Maha Upanishad, which belongs to the Samaveda tradition.

The mantra is as follows:

**अयंबन्धुरयनेतिगणनालघुचेतसाम्  
उदारचरितानांतुवसुधैवकुटुम्बकम्॥**

*Only the narrow-minded recognize the difference "This person is mine, and this one is not" (i.e., the ignorant who are in duality). The entire world is one family for those of noble character (those who know the Supreme Truth) as (one Unit). (The meaning of words like "family" should be examined in light of what the Upanishad is explaining). (It reflects the characteristics of a person who acknowledged the Truth while encompassing the world's plurality).*

IshaaAvshsya, mantra 6:

**यस्तुसर्वाणिभूतानिआत्मन्येवानुपश्यति।  
सर्वभूतेषुचात्मानंततो न विजुगुप्सते।**

*He who sees all life forms in the Individuality, and the Individual in all life forms, do not harbor hatred due to that perception.*

That is, he perceives everybody as himself. Furthermore, that is the pinnacle of Oneness. There have been no differences. Full homogeneity. When what is IS one Component, there is no space for enmity because there is nothing to hate apart from oneself. That is the perception of the true actual Reality, (वसुधैवकुटुम्बकम्)(Word press, 2015).

Moreover, there is another understanding of VasudhaivaKutumbakam in an Indian philosophical concept that defines the interconnectedness of the entire world and everything in it as the "all-inclusive web of life." Shankaracharya, a 6th-century Indian scholar-philosopher and Yogi-Saint, founded it. Shankaracharya used the concept of VasudhaivaKutumbakam to explain the interconnectedness of the entire world and everything in it as the "all-inclusive web of life." In simple words, VasudhaivaKutumbakam means the entire universe.

### Contemporary Approach

“नहिग्यानेन्सद्रिश्यम्पवित्रभिह्विते“

*Our scholars have stated there was hardly anything likewise divine than knowledge; all can acknowledge that.* Our forefathers introduced us to the VasudhaivaKutumbakam ideology.

The Unity of the Whole World is an idea rooted in the Vedas, the Upanishads, and the Puranas. It is an idea that has inspired the greatest patriots and the most significant revolutionaries. It is a concept that we must continue to instill in our lives. The concept of 'brotherhood' implies a positive feeling of unity and mutual respect for all human beings. It is not possible without a philosophy based on the equality of all human beings.

For this reason, the Bharatiya Humanist Movement, founded by Aurobindo Ghose in 1918, adopted such a philosophy. He summed up its principles in the following words: "The whole idea of the movement is based on the fundamental principle that all men are brothers." Gandhi was correct in his assertion that, The accomplishment of a cosmopolitan society in which people of different nations and creeds coexist as brothers is an impossible dream without incorporating patriotism. In their true sense, nationalism and patriotism are inseparable. It is possible to be a patriot for one's country while also being an internationalist. We must follow the feeling that other countries should have the freedom to develop their own national cultures, provided this does not infringe upon the rights of others. In its true sense, patriotism is not against the idea of a cosmopolitan society but is an essential requirement for its achievement(Jahanbegloo, 2022).

The patriotic and cosmopolitan society was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi tried to get fulfilled by introducing The Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) passed by the Indian Constitution on December 11, 2019. This National Register of Citizens (NRC) bill allows minorities from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sudan, and many other Muslim countries to vote. It is an excellent step in the direction of cosmopolitanism. This bill also allows illegal migrants to apply for Indian citizenship and makes it easier for government to identify and deport illegal migrants(Indian Express, 2019). This bill unites the country and is a big step towards making India a more inclusive society. The Citizenship Amendment Bill will benefit minorities and help the Indian

economy. It is enhancing the process of achieving cosmopolitanism and assimilating patriotism.

### **Universalism**

India is a nation that believes in internationalism or universalism. This dedication has been recognized and understood for thousands of years by India's ancient motto, 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam.' Furthermore, centuries of harmonious and emerging Indian Culture have unequivocally reaffirmed its commitment to internationalism through its Indian forefathers, and it continues to do so today. Indian Culture has unique and admirable qualities, the most notable of which is adaptation and widespread acceptance, which has drawn the entire world's attention by opening the door of the Indian land to all, regardless of which part or region of the world he or she relates. It has undoubtedly been a significant step toward universalism. It is an essential lesson for all nations and citizens worldwide to learn, especially in globalization, which is internationalism. Mahatma Gandhi's 'Sarvodaya'

principle, which follows Indian values and traditions and is inspired by Ruskin's theory of 'Unto This Last,' can indeed be regarded as the best road to liberty and equality. This theory does not idealize kinship, category, sex, race, community, or region but advocates for equal labour performed by an intellectual or cultivator.

In contrast to utilitarian theory, which represents the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people, 'Sarvodaya' speaks of the greatest happiness for all. It contains provisions for equal opportunities for the most disadvantaged to advance. Hence it indicates that the greatest pleasure includes the greatest happiness to the greatest number. As a result, it encompasses all of humanity and beautifully shows internationalism (Kumar, 2014).

Despite the existence of independent nation-states, we presently live in an essential stage of interdependence due to global development that is constantly increasing. Teamwork is essential for all global citizens to reduce the risk of any conflicts. There had been over 75 lakh cases of COVID-19 worldwide as of June 13, 2020, with over four lakh deaths. When this lethal infection invades every Nation, the Indian government, led by Prime Minister Modi, has risen to provide medical assistance to other nations. India had sent groups of Indian military doctors to Kuwait, the Maldives, and Nepal to assist local authorities in developing effective strategies to fight the dissemination of the SARS-CoV2 virus that is causing COVID-19 (Vikasyatra, 2020). Many people thought Gandhi's Universalism was a pipe dream. However, with drastically altered circumstances, during the difficult times of Covid-19, all nations came together to fight the deadly virus, exemplifying that in the contemporary world, the concept of ancient Indian Culture, viz. VasudhaivaKutumbhakam is relevant far beyond the borders of the entire world as one Nation.

### **CONCLUSION**

Presently, the globe is enthusiastic to see Oneness in the name of sports activities, nature, economic growth, demilitarisation, Etc. The wording may differ, but they recite the authentic mantra granted to us by our ancestors: 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam.' Indeed, it is the academics on the dais and doctoral students' responsibility to reverse the current downward trend and

continue on the path of collaboration to better the humanistic community. The divine zeal associated with the beginning of civilization is a one-of-a-kind gift to humankind. The quote goes, 'UdarCharitanaamTuVasudev Kutumbkam' (For people with noble character, the entire world is one family). Whatever India had from the period of the Vedas in medicine, military installations, chemistry, mathematical skills, metallurgy, gemology, etc., it was always open to everyone. The adoption of June 21 as the International Day of Yoga by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, in response to an India-led resolution with support from over 100 countries, is a testament to India's global leadership in the promotion of Yoga as a means of physical and mental well-being and as a cultural symbol of inclusiveness(Press Information Bureau, 2018). India is a country that has demonstrated its commitment to the ideals of cosmopolitanism and has been a leading proponent of the celebration of World Yoga Day. India has shown the world what is possible when a country is committed to patriotism, cosmopolitanism, and universalism. Moreover, through such small initiatives, India's ancient roots of Oneness, known as VasudhaivaKutumbhakam, flourished worldwide to help eliminate global conflicts.

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