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Economic Sovereignty to Indian Solidarity: Analyzing the Economic Implications of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in a Post-Pandemic World (Special Reference Maharashtra)

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Introduction:

The philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ("One Earth, One Family, One Future") has influenced India's post-pandemic economic approach by balancing national growth (economic sovereignty) with global cooperation (Indian solidarity). This is particularly evident in the focus on human-centric globalization**,** resilient supply chains, and digital infrastructure, which also guides regional efforts, including those in Maharashtra.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the interconnectedness and vulnerabilities of global systems, debunking theories based purely on unilateral dominance. In response, India's approach, guided by the ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, has focused on several key economic implications.

Human-Centric View: There is a growing recognition of the need to shift from a GDP-centric to a human-centric view of the world, prioritizing well-being and equitable growth over mere profit maximization.

Building Resilient Supply Chains:

The pandemic highlighted the importance of reliable and resilient global supply chains. The philosophy encourages integrating India into global value chains not just for economic growth, but also for mutual benefit and stability.

Multilateralism and Global Governance Reform:

India has advocated for strengthening multilateral institutions like the IMF and World Bank to make them more inclusive, especially for the Global South. This aligns with the idea of a shared future and collective responsibility.

Public Health and Vaccine Diplomacy:

India's "Vaccine Maitri" initiative, which supplied COVID-19 vaccines and medical supplies to nearly 150 countries, is a practical application of treating the world as one family in a health crisis.

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Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):

India's success with DPI models (like UPI, Aadhaar, and Co-WIN) has been presented as a model for developing nations, promoting technology sharing for social and economic development.

Sustainable Development and Economic Goals:: The concept strongly aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing environmental responsibility, ethical sourcing, and inclusive growth.

Objective and Research Question –

The proposed study aims to explore how the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' can be realized in practice in resolving the global humanitarian crisis and how India is preaching the same also at an international level, reflected in Indian diplomatic efforts to stand for human rights and in its values inherited by constitutional fathers and different philosophies preached by India and Maharshtra.

Research Methodology-

Methodology and Sourcess,the research would be undertaken by mixed methodology using descriptive and analytical methodological tools. The interpretative method would be followed in order to show different perspectives and inclusion of different voices within the dominant paradigm for highlighting gendered perspective and how there is a need to move behind the appearances and to show the need to expand the knowledge production via inclusion of such concepts of Indian thought. The research paper would also include content analysis, giving examples to support the proposed research. Sources will include articles, journals, internet sources, and books and others text material in order to examine how this normative notion of cosmopolitanism could be realized in practice.

Relevance to Maharashtra:

While national policy is the primary driver, the state of Maharashtra is a significant economic hub that reflects these national priorities.

Industry and Trade:

Trade and industry are the twin engines of an economy: Industry focuses on *producing* goods and services (manufacturing, mining, tech), while Trade (a part of broader *Commerce*) involves the *distribution, buying, and selling* of those products, linking producers to consumers, both locally and globally, with activities like transport, banking, and advertising as essential support (aids to trade). Together, they drive economic development, create jobs, and generate income, with industry providing the goods and trade facilitating their exchange.

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Maharashtra's business leaders and policymakers, as noted at forums like the World Hindu Economic Forum in Mumbai, discuss sustainable growth and innovation-driven development aligned with India's civilizational values, including *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*

Tourism and Culture: The state government has also used the philosophy in promoting its cultural heritage and tourism, linking local identity to the broader global harmony message of "unity in diversity".

In essence, the shift from absolute economic sovereignty to an "Indian solidarity" model implies a balance where self-reliance (as seen in post-pandemic economic recovery) is coupled with a deep commitment to global cooperation and shared prosperity, a principle rooted in the ancient wisdom of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.*

Indian Solidarity: The Role of Maharashtra

As a leading industrial and financial hub, Maharashtra acts as a microcosm of this transition:

Manufacturing Powerhouse:

Maharashtra's industrial hubs (Pune, Mumbai, Nagpur) are critical to "Make in India." By strengthening the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector—which was heavily affected by the pandemic—Maharashtra contributes directly to India's self-reliance.

Export Promotion: The state is key in the export of automobiles, engineering goods, and pharma, supporting India's role in global supply chains.

Financial Services: With Mumbai as the financial capital, Maharashtra plays a vital role in promoting the internationalization of the rupee and supporting the digital financial infrastructure that aligns with the *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* philosophy.

Cooperative Growth: Maharashtra is a major player in the agricultural and cooperative sectors, strengthening rural economies and enhancing food security.

Maharashtra is working towards becoming India's first one-trillion-dollar state economy by 2030, a goal supported by long-term planning and investment, the broader national economic strategy of global integration and innovation.

Post-Pandemic Challenges and Directions-

Balancing Act: India must manage the tension between protecting its economic interests (sovereignty) and upholding the principles of global solidarity.

Sustainable Growth: The future lies in integrating green energy and sustainable practices, moving toward a 44% share of renewables in installed capacity by 2025.

MSME Support: Ensuring that the recovery is inclusive, with support for informal workers and small businesses, is crucial for both local and national solidarity.

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Sustainable Development Goals 2030: India's Progress and Challenges-

India has established a strong institutional framework for SDG implementation. The NITI Aayog is the nodal agency to implement SDGs, mapping of schemes and coordinating with the States and Union Territories. The sector-specific goals are implemented by central Ministries and the State Governments are key players in localizing these goals. private sector and civil society are stakeholders in emerging areas like technology and renewable energy. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been instrumental in developing indicators for monitoring the performance of SDGs. The UN Country Team in India supports all the key agencies in their efforts to make global efforts successful.

Conclusion- The idea is to understand the global world in terms of pluralistic identities, with each having their own experiences, but to make this plurality a source of strength, which could further result in greater understanding of each other and thus believe in the notion of the entire world being our family. This is not to say that one has to desist the aspects of their national interests, but rather to combine the elements of Indian principles as reflected in our ancient texts along with the complex realities existing within the current geopolitical scenario. Thus, even though it appears to be a far-fetched reality, we are taking steps towards that to awaken from deep slumber and establish tranquility. Therefore, the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' carries within itself the idea of development of all and creation of an intact world where humans could flourish once the impediments regarding their human rights exploitations are resolved.The innovative policy formulation and coordinated implementation of Government schemes have made remarkable impacts on the progress of the SDGs in India. The SAUBHAGYA Scheme has provided affordable electricity to one hundred percent of households and PM Ujjwala Yojana has supplied 103 million LPG connections. Thrust on clean energy has resulted in a swift increase in solar power capacity from 2.82 gigawatts (GW) to 73.32 GW. Likewise, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (banking access), MGNREGA (employment guarantee) along with Digital India Mission have expedited financial inclusion for economic growth as never before.Swachh Bharat Mission and Jal Jeevan Mission significantly have improved the status of access to clean water and sanitation respectively by creating 110 million toilets and 149 million tap water connections in rural areas. Similarly, 800 million people were covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) to ensure food security and more than 520 million people under Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana for health insurance. PMJAY is the largest health insurance scheme funded by any Government. India's progress in education

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was ramped up through the Right to Education (RTE) Act making education free and compulsory for children up to 14 years. India ranks among the top performers globally on the Climate Change Performance Index through strong climate action with an impressive target of 500 GW capacity from renewable energy by 2030.

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