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"THE ROLE OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM IN PROMOTINGENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY"

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ABSTRACT

The philosophy of VasudhaivaKutumbakam is an ancient Indian belief system that promotes unity and interconnectedness among all people regardless of their cultural, religious, or geographical difference. It emphasizes a global perspective, prioritizing the collective well-being over individual or family interests. The theme affirms the value of all life - human, animals, plants, and micro-organisms - and their interconnectedness on the planet earth and in the wider universe. Embracing the principles of VasudhaivaKutumbakam can lead to a more just and sustainable world where all people are valued and respected as members of a single family. One of the core values is that the well-being of the Mother Earth depends on the preservation and sustenance of the environment. This abstract explores the application of VasudhaivaKutumbakam in the context of environmental sustainability, highlighting its relevance in fostering a collective responsibility towards the well-being of the planet. It underscores the importance of solidarity, cooperation, and a shared responsibility to build a healthier and sustainable planet. VasudhaivaKutumbakam can promote environmental sustainability by encouraging people to adopt a more holistic approach to nature and promoting the use of traditional knowledge and practices. It emphasizes the need to balance economic, social, and environmental considerations.

Keywords: Indian belief, interconnectedness, preservation, holistic approach, sustainability, life

INTRODUCTION:

The Sanskrit phrase "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" has been animbibed and enduring understanding in the philosophical tapestry of India. This Sanskrit phrase is derived from the Maha Upanishad and traditionally translates to "the world is one family." One world means all sentient beings are one single being, occupying one single Earth. If education is based on

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this single principle, the sustainability goals are automatically achieved. This principle highlights the importance of embracing diversity and promoting peace, unity, and cooperation among all nations and cultures. The paper focuses on the argument that in the face of present crisis of climate change the world must unite and different cultures and their respective knowledge systems should take part to the sustainability debate. These principles originate from a profound sense of unity and interconnectedness and lay a great emphasis on the importance of giving back to nature. The paper points out the need of creating a laboratory for sustainability based on the concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", that recognizes the differences and plurality and celebrates the oneness. A knowledge system which is created on the principles of VasudhaivaKutumbakam, would be a truly sustainable knowledge system.

Objectives:

Maintaining the cyclicality in natural grandeur.

Under lying the reality of basic one ness

Emphasize the importance of global peace and understanding among different cultures and nations.

Environmental Stewardship: Environmental stewardship refers to the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices by all human beings. Stewardship is the responsible use (including conservation) of natural resources in a way that takes full and balanced account of the interests of society, future generations, and other species, as well as of private needs and accepts significant answerability to society. The term environmental stewardship has been used to refer to such diverse actions as creating protected areas, replanting trees, limiting harvests, reducing harmful activities or pollution, creating community gardens, restoring degraded areas, or purchasing more sustainable products. It is applied to describe strict environmental conservation actions, active restoration activities and/or the sustainable use and management of resources. Stewardship actions can also be taken at diverse scales, from local to global efforts, and in both rural and urban contexts. The global scale of many current environmental issues might lead to the perception that local actions can no longer meet these challenges. However, one way through which people get involved in promoting sustainability and in responding to external drivers of change, using their own expertise and knowledge, is through engaging in local environmental stewardship actions and initiatives.

Sustainable Development and Its Goals: Sustainable development entails relationships among these key components: social, economic, and environmental factors. In other words, the only way development can be continual in perpetuity is if it creates a balance between the

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interests of different groups of people within the same generation and among generations. The increasing pressure on the earth‟s resources due to population growth requires that development and resource use be managed to maintain a sustainable environment so as to preserve or enhance human well-being. A practical approach for demonstrating the environmental sustainability of an action through ecosystem service analysis is presented.

The Theme of India's G20 Presidency: "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" or "One Earth • One Family • One Future" - is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the Maha Upanishad. Essentially, the theme affirms the value of all life – human, animal, plant, and micro-organisms – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe.

Priorities of India's G20:•Green Development, Climate Finance & Life Climate change is a key priority for India's presidential Presidency, with a particular focus developing nations across the world. Understanding that the issue of climate change cuts across industry, society, and sectors, India offers the world Life (Lifestyle for Environment) -a behavior-based movement that draws from our nation's rich, ancient sustainable traditions to nudge consumers, and in-turn markets, to adopt environmentally-conscious practices. This ties closely with India's G20 theme: 'VasudhaivaKutumbakam' or 'One Earth. One Family.One Future'. •Accelerated,Inclusive&ResilientGrowth An accelerated, resilient and inclusive growth is a cornerstone for sustainable development. During G20 Presidency, India aims to focus on areas that have the potential to bring structural transformation. This includes an ambition to accelerate integration of MSMEs in global trade, bring in the spirit of trade for growth, promote labour rights and secure labour welfare, address global skills gap, and build inclusive agricultural value chains and food systems etc.

Outcomes:

As we consider our roles as individuals and community members, it may be helpful to think of six natural resource systems and desired outcomes for each one:

Air: Sustain clean and healthy air

Ecosystems: Protect and restore ecosystems functions, goods, and services

Energy: Generate clean energy and use it efficiently

Land: Support ecologically sensitive and management and development

CHALLENGES: VasudhaivaKutumbakam is undoubtedly important and that is why it appears in so many ancient texts. But there are a few challenges we face when it comes to the use of VasudhaivaKutumbakam in international relations. Firstly, we have to encounter ideological approaches, which are by nature different from philosophical approaches. Secondly, the hard power of nationstates is a big challenge to the idea of

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VasudhaivaKutumbakam, which is based on the principle of self-restraint. India can provide the principle or the software of everlasting peace to the world, but the rest of the world has to accept this principle.

CONCLUSION: Now, the search for a new paradigm that can ensure economic development without jeopardizing environmental quality is being intensified. We need such a world view with a philosophical foundation where people think about nature before thinking about themselves, which can make us realize the deeper underlying reality of basic oneness. Heisenberg, about the relation between man and nature says that. "„Natural Science"" does not simply describe and explain nature; it is part of the interplay between nature and ourselves. We can never speak about nature without, at the same time, speaking about ourselves". This ecological harmony is possible when the entire universe is seen as a single largest family including all the living beings of the world.

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