

Echoes of Eco

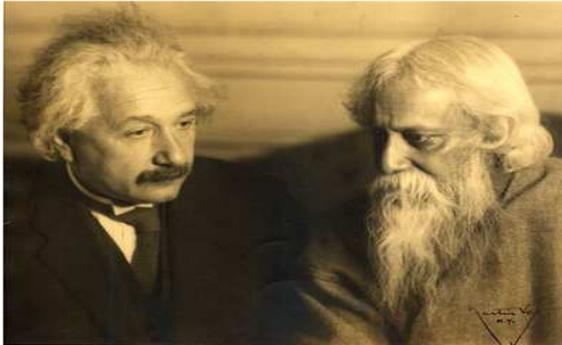


June , 2011

Vivekananda Kendra- *nardep* Newsletter

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From a Conversation



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Einstein: Do you believe in the Divine as isolated from the world?

Tagore: Not isolated. The infinite personality of Man comprehends the Universe. There cannot be anything that cannot be subsumed by the human personality, and this proves that the truth of the Universe is human truth. I have taken a scientific fact to explain this. Matter is composed of protons and electrons, with gaps between them, but matter may seem to be solid without the links in spaces which unify the individual electrons and protons. Similarly humanity is composed of individuals, yet they have their interconnection of human relationship, which gives living unity to man's world. The entire universe is linked up with us, as individuals, in a similar manner - it is a human universe. I have pursued this thought through art, literature and the religious consciousness of man.

Einstein: There are two different conceptions about the nature of the universe -the world as a unity dependent on humanity, and the world as a reality independent of the human factor.

Tagore : When our universe is in harmony with man, the eternal, we know it as truth, we feel it as beauty.

Einstein : This is the purely human conception of the universe.

Tagore : There can be no other conception. This world is a human world - the scientific view of it is also that of the scientific man. Therefore, the world apart from us does not exist; it is a relative world, depending for its reality upon our consciousness. There is some standard of reason and enjoyment which gives it truth, the standard of the Eternal Man whose experiences are through our experiences.

Einstein: This is a realization of the human entity.

Tagore : Yes, one eternal entity. We have to realize it through our emotions and activities. We realized the Supreme Man who has no individual limitations through our limitations. Science is concerned with that which is not confined to individuals, it is the impersonal human world of truths. Religion realizes these truths and links them up with our deeper needs; our individual consciousness of truth gains universal significance. Religion applies values to truth, and we know this truth as good through our own harmony with it.

[An excerpt from Tagore-Einstein conversation]

Realizing the Truth



When one experiences the diversified existence of beings abiding in the one eternal Being, and diverse forms spreading forth from it, then he realizes the Ultimate Truth.

-Srimat Bhagavat Gita (13:31)



Service to humanity is the highest form of worship – Swami Vivekananda

If an elderly but distinguished scientist says that something is possible, he is almost certainly right; but if he says that it is impossible, he is very probably wrong.

- Arthur C. Clarke



Sustainable Building Practices: Ferro-cement Technology for aesthetic construction

This month...



Ferro-cement for beauty:



Though Ferro-cement technology is a good cost-effective technology, its dissemination and acceptability is a real problem.

The approach of Vivekananda Kendra-natural resources development project (VK-nardep) to the problem of technology dissemination has been at various levels. One important innovation by VK-nardep is the value-addition to this technology. There is also synergetic coupling of this technology with other highly adaptable sustainable technologies.

This integrates Ferro-cement technology as part and parcel of the way of life rather than a separate piecemeal technological intervention. Ferro-cement technology can be used for the creation of beautiful decorative items. These include, garden ponds, decorative wheels, dustbins and flower pots. Here we see some of them.



Apart from such integration of the ferro-cement technology with other sustainable technologies, VK-nardep also has experimented successfully with the aesthetic aspect of Ferro-cement technology by:

- creating new designs in the pre-fabricated doors, windows,
- using of pre-fabricated roof vaults in creating symmetrical roof designs which give a rich look
- using the technology to create innovative art structures in public places
- decorative features in the building
- Compartment partitions in offices etc.

Such varied application which allows masons and workers to try their creativity and create value addition makes this technology acceptable and this in turn makes the technology dissemination successful.

Green Health Home at Vivekananda Piram functioned for 8 days and treated 209 patients.



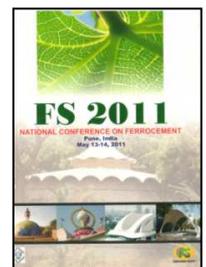
Done with DST core support



Cost effective construction



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan's paper on "Value added and synergetic approach to Ferro cement technology dissemination" appeared in the journal released during National Conference on Ferro Cement Technology at Pune



Real attainment is to be fully conscious, to be aware of surroundings and the people around, to move among them all, but not to merge consciousness in the environment. One should remain in inner independent awareness.

-Sri Ramana Maharishi



Shri.A.Sankar, AGM, NABARD, Nagercoil, addressing the villagers during the meet on village development programme. Perumselvavillai



Sis. Saraswathi addressing the villagers during the meet on village development programme, Perumselvavillai



Water and Sanitation

Tested water from 14 wells in Kanyakumari Dist – programme of Central Ground Water Board, Chennai.

Murugan kundram traditional rain water harvesting structure renovation work is continuing.

This month... Networking



Motivation Workshop was held for Tamilnadu Forestry Training College, Vaigai Dam at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram in two batches on 24th and 27th. The participants numbered 64 and 62 for the two camps respectively.

The resource persons included:
Shri.N.Krishnamoorthi, Shri.V.Ramakrishnan, and Sis.V.Saraswathi

Villagers interaction and discussion



Forestry officials undergoing a session during the motivation camp: Sri.Ramakrishnan is conducting the training.



What is Biogas? How to install and maintain a Biogas plant? What are the practices for optimum biogas utilization? From the point of view of both an end-user and technician this manual has been written. For copies contact the Secretary Vivekananda Kendra-NARDEP Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari-629702



There is a path of joy and there is the path of pleasure. Pondering on them, the wise (one) chooses the of joy; the fool takes the path of pleasure. – Katha Upanishad 1:2:1



Press report on Visha Vaidhya Conference + workshop conducted at Vivekananda Kendra-nardep.



Happenings: This month for Sustainable Agriculture

Village Development Programme under the auspices of NABARD, Chennai was conducted by VK-nardep team at Perumselvavillai, Kanyakumari Dist.on 23rd. 30 participants attended the training. Shri.A.Sankar, AGM, NABARD, Nagercoil attended the event. The resource persons were: Sis.V.Saraswathi, Shri.S.Rajamony

Dr.Kamalasanan Pillai gave a talk on AIR, Trichur on 2nd June. Topic: Organic farming

Pasumai Vikatan Tamil organic farming magazine gave a good coverage about Azolla on June 10th issue.

Youtube uploads This Month...



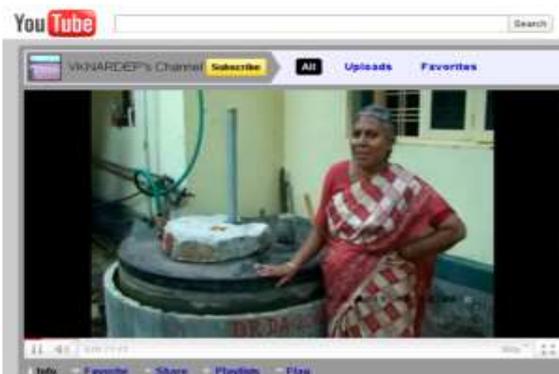
The channel of vk-nardep in youtube uploaded three small videos which have the testimonies of two housewives and two men.

One person explained how he created a good kitchen garden. The two housewives also explained how bio-methanation plant has improved the quality of their lives.

Another person explained how he ran the bio-methanation plant on tea waste.

Always check for new video clips at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/VKNARDEP#p/a/u/1/KwWeZfSbSA0>

An elderly house-wife explains how Bio-Methanation plant helps her and makes her life better: login to our channel for more



Happenings: This month for Holistic Medicine

Dr.V.Ganapathy conducted the regional level workshop on "Documentation on Visha Vaidya Practices" (sponsored by AYUSH. Delhi) at Senaithalaivar Kalyana Mandapam, Shenkottai on 7th of June. 45 traditional skilled persons attended this.

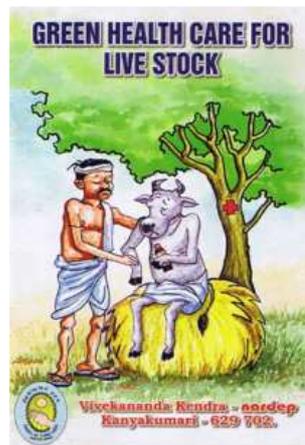
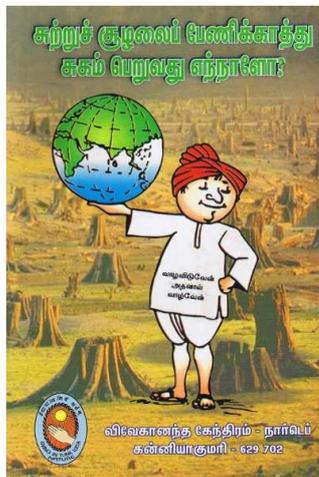
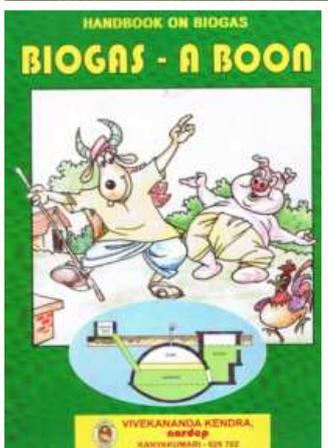
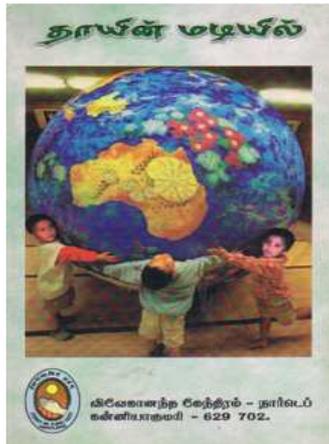
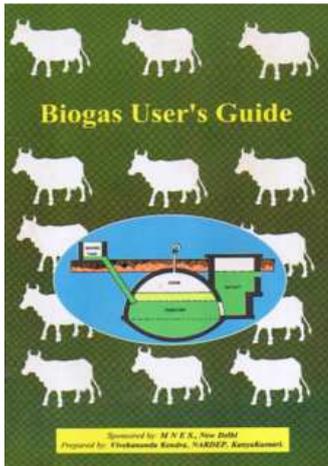
Workshop on "Traditional Visha Vaidya Practices" was conducted by Dr.V.Ganapathy on 28th of this month. It was sponsored by AYUSH, Delhi. It was conducted at the Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram. 175 including traditional Vaidhyas attended this conference + workshop.

Demonstration with a snake at the Visha-Vaidhya conference-workshop.





My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble mind – Albert Einstein



- The control of nature is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man. The concepts and practices of applied entomology for the most part date from that Stone Age of science. It is our alarming misfortune that so primitive a science has armed itself with the most modern and terrible weapons, and that in turning them against the insects it has also turned them against the earth.

- It is a wholesome and necessary thing for us to turn again to the earth and in the contemplation of her beauties to know of wonder and humility.

- Through all these new, imaginative, and creative approaches to the problem of sharing our earth with other creatures there runs a constant theme, the awareness that we are dealing with life with living populations and all their pressures and counter pressures, their surges and recessions. Only by taking account of such life forces and by cautiously seeking to guide them into channels favorable to ourselves can we hope to achieve a reasonable accommodation between the insect hordes and ourselves.

**How to feed the future humanity?
How to make development sustainable?
Some of the best publications on the subject for layman and professionals alike are from VK-nardep.
Contact: The Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra-NARDEP
Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari-629702
Tamil Nadu
Phone: 04652-246296 Email:vknardep@gmail.com**



This month... Shakthi Surabhi

This month training programme on Bio-methanation plant (supported by DST, New Delhi) was conducted at TRC, Kalluvilai on 25th Shri.V.Muneswaran was the resource person.



All love is expansion, all selfishness is contraction. Love is therefore the only law of life. He who loves lives, he who is selfish is dying. Therefore love for love's sake, because it is law of life, just as you breathe to live.
– Swami Vivekananda



Inspiration: A Bhagiratha brings Azolla to Bihar

Akhilesh Kumar from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, did a three month pilot project on "Azolla as cattle feed" at Patna district of Bihar from 5th March to 5th June 2011. The project aims to study the technology transfer of this new agriculture technology at the ground level in order to support sustainable agriculture development in rural Bihar. He obtained the technology from Dr. Kamalasanann Pillai of Vivekananda Kendra. After a lot of initial technical hurdles Akhilesh succeeded in transplanting the technology to rural Bihar.

In his own words:

"When I reached home from Kanyakumari and opened this bucket containing Azolla, it was a shock to me. The condition of azolla culture was very bad. More than 70 % of Azolla mother culture was damaged. I felt very unhappy but with patience I prepared one Azolla pond and inoculated it with mother culture. After three days there was some positive growth and I started having confidence. After 7-10 days again there was some fungal attack. One good thing is that I also inoculated some healthy Azolla cultures in a cement tub. In this tub condition was a little bit comparatively good. I never gave up hope."

Next desiring to get some healthy Azolla for further propagation, he went to the block veterinary officer and discussed about Azolla. He was directed to meet Patna veterinary collage for Azolla culture. Here he met Dr. Shahu, associate professor in livestock production management.

He discovered that awareness about Azolla was very less. Then he got the contact of Dr. A.K. Jha a Research scientist at Sabaur Agriculture college who is also doing some research on Azolla. But he was busy with elections. Then again he got a lead. This time he had to go to Ranchi to get it. Then came the good news from his house. The Azolla beds he inoculated were flourishing.

Now he gained confidence and started looking for institutional support to propagate Azolla. However there were government bureaucratic hurdles.

Fortunately at that time former President APJ Abdul Kalam was visiting that area for a farmers' club programme. Though he could not meet Dr. Kalam, Akhilesh placed two buckets of Azolla on the way. Kalam comes to the venue. Dr. Kalam stopped and said "Azolla! Great Work!".

That did the magic.

Farmers started getting interested, Organizations started showing interest and even *Hindustan* newspaper (Hindi) reported it. Soon with organizations like BAIF offering support, Akhilesh successfully propagated the technology to farmers. Today Azolla blooms in the backyards of the marginal livestock farmers of Bihar thanks to this Bhagiratha.

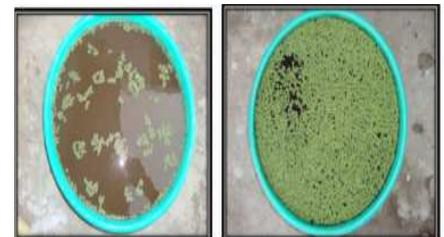
Azolla goes to Bihar



- Damaged Azolla after Journey.



- Undeterred Akhilesh inoculates Azolla in the bed he prepares



- After disease attacks and initial setbacks Azolla cultivated and kept in bucket. Dr. Abdul Kalam sees and appreciates.



- Azolla makes it to the Bihar press report in Bihar and also to the backyards of the Bihar farmers.

The further the spiritual evolution of mankind advances, the more certain it seems to me that the path to genuine religiosity does not lie through the fear of life, and the fear of death, and blind faith, but through striving after rational knowledge.

-Albert Einstein



Rhythm of Ganga

When it is understood that one loses joy and happiness in the attempt to possess them, the essence of natural farming will be realized. The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.

I did not know it firsthand because I have not read many books. But when I heard about his campaign of non-violent resistance, I saw absolutely no contradiction. Unlike many other great men I've met throughout the world, I think Gandhi alone embodied total unity of thought and action. I am told that Gandhi did not follow the time of the wristwatch but that of the Ganga. His spinning wheel embodied the cyclic rhythms of nature which are what I would like to follow. I was also moved by his insistence on a return to a village-based life of simplicity and truth. I, too, would like my rice, my methods to be spread among the poorest of the poor to revive the much-abused earth.

Masaroeba Fukuoka

Naturalist and Philosopher



The Movement of Life

The movement of love is not limited to human beings and it is perhaps less distorted in other worlds than in the human.

Look at the flowers and trees.

When the sun sets and all becomes silent, sit down for a moment and put yourself into communion with nature. You will feel rising from the earth, from below the roots of the trees, and mounting upward and coursing through their fibres, up to the highest outstretching branches, the aspiration of an intense love and longing,—a longing for something that brings light and gives happiness, for the light that is gone and they wish to have back again.

There is a yearning so pure and intense that if you can feel the movement in the trees, your own being too will go up in an ardent prayer for the peace and light and love that are unmanifested here.

- Mother

Spiritual leader



Knowing Transforms

It seems evident to me, and maybe it will become more evident to others, that consciousness and matter are not in such separate camps as a lot of people used to think. It was popularly thought that mind deals with mind things - thoughts, feelings and so forth - and that body deals with physiological things, and that there is virtually no communication between the two.

-Now, particularly after some of the research I did, it seems to me that knowledge can be envisioned as embodied. Not in the metaphorical sense, but literally embodied in the material sense. Knowledge can alter and change the biology and physical structure of the thing that has that knowledge. How that knowledge is expressed can really change the body.

In other words, there is the possibility that we can alter and change ourselves by how and what we learn, how and what we inform ourselves with, and what we do with that information.

- Fred Alan Wolf

Quantum Physicist

