

Echoes of Eco



August, 2018

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

Vol:10 No: 6

Extracts from the book "TED Talk - Blissful Wisdom"

Blissful Wisdom

(TED Talk by a Swamiji from America)



A few year ago, I was walking with a friend in a Muir wood which is just close to San Francisco. It is a redwood forest. We came upon a park ranger. He was explaining to some tourists the secret of the forest. He told that Sequoia and Redwood trees are the largest trees on planet. Some of

them are hundreds, even thousands of years old. But interestingly their roots do not grow deep and then he told that these trees have been standing for centuries and centuries enduring massive windstorms, frigid blizzards, devastating earthquakes. And without deep roots, how did they keep standing? Then the ranger paused, so that we can ponder over this mystery. And then he went on to reveal to us, the underground secret of the redwood forest. He said that the roots under the ground reach outwards seeking roots of other redwood trees. When they meet, they intertwine making a permanent bond with each other. In this way, all the redwood trees in the entire forest, either directly or indirectly give support to each other. Unity is their strength. They reach out to care for each other. Even a little new born baby redwood, its little tiny roots, are given shelter by ancient giants.

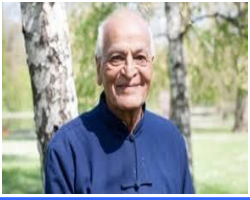
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The entire universe consists of the Supreme Lord present within nature that has existed since the beginning of time. That Almighty alone is therefore independent - without a beginning and without an end. Due to this quality, do not lust for others' wealth. Instead, enjoy whatever is given to you by the Lord, and realise the Self by passive awareness and renunciation.

(Rig Veda)



"We have to shift our attitude of ownership of nature to relationship with nature. The moment you change from ownership to relationship, you create a sense of the sacred"

- Satish Kumar

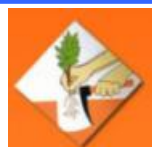


In the Muir woods, nature is giving humanity a very crucial lesson that our real strength is, in our willingness to care for and support each other. We are caretakers of divine property. Wisdom is to understand this simple universal principle that in giving, we receive. By getting things, we make a living. By giving, we make a life. **The spiritual evolution of society can be understood when people love people and use things. But all too often in today's world, it is just the opposite. People use people, and they love things.**





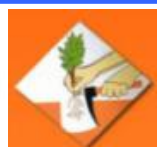
"The way to healthy living is to shift from quantitative economic growth to quality of life, food, water and air - to shift from craving to contentment and from greed to gratitude"
- Satish Kumar



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "Hydroponic" was held at Technology Resource Center on 4th August. 18 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony and Smt.S.Premalatha were the resource persons.



Our worker Shri.Suresh showing the fodder grown by Hydroponics method

Training programme on "Azolla Bio-feed technology" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 25th August. 29 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony and Smt.S.Premalatha were the resource persons.



Smt.S.Premalatha explaining Azolla technology through power point



Feedback from the field

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I am a farmer first and then a professor in Vivekananda College teaching Botany. I am also associated with Vivekananda Kendra and bring my students to Kendra's Technology Resource Center for awareness and training on different Agriculture related technologies. I try to practice whatever I learn in Vivekananda Kendra. Luckily I have a space in and around my house where I grow Azolla, practice vermi composting and use Panchagavya etc. as growth promoters



Participants of Holistic Sustainable Livelihood eagerly listening the importance of Azolla

Training programme on "Holistic Sustainable Livelihood" was held at Gramodaya Park on 28th August. 36 participants attended. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Bayer Group India.



"We need to learn to live in the here and now; this moment is the best moment. Live it fully"

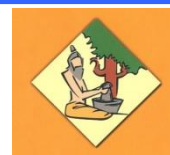
- Satish Kumar



**Happenings this month:
Shelter**



Happenings this month



**Happenings this month:
Holistic Health**

Training programme on "Ferro cement technology" was held at Technology Resource Center on 16th August. 22 participants attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.



Group discussion during 'Ferro cement technology'

Shri.Ashok Bhatt & Mrs.Rita Bhatt, Rtd. Engineer and a Banker from Gujarat voluntarily worked as gardeners for 10 days up to 16th August as they have a passion for environmental activities. They planted Tulsi seeds, prepared pots for varieties of flowers and prepared novel items such as shelter for birds, lantern from waste materials etc.



Green hands absorbed in their work

Green health home worked for 4 days and treated 171 patients.

Workshop on "Role of Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting" was held at Technology Resource Center on 27th and 28th August. 38 Vaidyas attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Dr.V.Ganapathy explaining Varma points during practical session



"Handbook on Varma treatment" released by Shri.Hanumantharao, All India Treasurer, Vivekananda Kendra during the workshop



"If individuals start to walk on the path of spirit and feel a sense of the sacred connectedness, then social, economic and political problems will also begin to get resolved"

- Satish Kumar



Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy

Follow up programmes on "Kitchen waste based Biogas plant" conducted at the following places. The programme was sponsored by IFAD, Chennai. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

S.No.	Place	Date	No. of participants
1.	Kavarapattu Cuddalore	13 th	20
2.	Silanthimangalam Cuddalore	13 th	10
3.	Thiruchopuam Cuddalore	13 th	10
4.	Pachayankuppam Cuddalore	13 th	15
5.	Madalapattu Cuddalore	13 th	10
6.	Periya Kuthagai Nagapattinam	14 th	11
7.	Vellapallam Nagapattinam	14 th	7
8.	Kovilpattu, Nagapattinam	14 th	4
9.	Vilunthamavadi Nagapattinam	14 th	4
10.	Thirupoondi East Nagapattinam	14 th	4
11.	Pillai Perumal Nallur Nagapattinam	14 th	6



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan explaining the uses of Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant at Pachayankuppam, Cuddalore Dist.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacting with the users of Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant at Kovilpattu, Nagapattinam Dist.

"Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth; Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust; Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace; Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe"

- Satish Kumar



**Happenings this month:
Networking**



Happenings this month:



**Happenings this month:
Networking**

40 farmers from Agasteeswaram block visited J.C.Bose nursery on 13th August. They learned Sustainable agricultural technologies. The programme was sponsored by ATMA, Govt. of India



Women farmers are at our J.C.Bose Nursery

Training programme on "Mushroom cultivation" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 21st August. 54 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Govt. Polytechnic, Konam, Nagercoil.



Shri.S.Rajamony interacting with the participants

Shri.G.Vasudeo presented a paper on "Water Resource management for rural development" during Regional Workshop for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan on 6th August at IIT, Madras. The programme was sponsored by Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi.



Shri.G.Vasudeo interacting with the help of power point presentation



Ladies enjoying the natural surroundings while learning nursery techniques along with Mushroom cultivation

"At the moment, for example, maybe ten percent of money in the world is related to goods and services. Ninety percent of money is just moving around the world, chasing money. So, money has become the ruler. And we have become the servant"

- Satish Kumar



**Happenings this month:
Networking**



Happenings this month:



**Happenings this month:
Networking**

IFAD Committee meeting was held at Kovalam Panchayat on 21st August. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan attended the meeting.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan talking with the participants

IFAD Committee meeting was held at Leepuram Panchayat on 27th August. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan attended the meeting.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan distributing seedlings to the participants



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacting with the students

28 students from Vivekananda College, Agasteeswaram visited J.C.Bose Nursery as a part of Study tour. Students learned Sustainable Development technologies.



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan explaining about Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation technology to the students

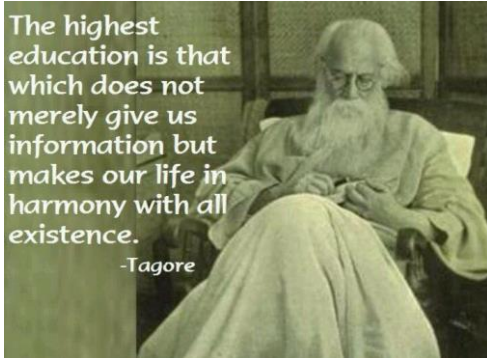


"Happiness is possible only when we are kind to others and contented within"

- Satish Kumar

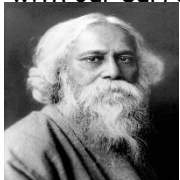


Visions of Wisdom



Exploration, Creation, Connection

In education the most important factor must be the inspiring atmosphere of creative activity. And therefore the primary function of our university should be the constructive work of knowledge. Men should be brought together and full scope given to them for their work of intellectual exploration and creation; and the teaching should be like the overflow of water of this spring of culture, spontaneous and inevitable. Education can only become natural and wholesome when it is the direct fruit of a living and growing knowledge. Our education should be in full touch with our complete life, economical, intellectual, aesthetic, social and spiritual, and our educational institution, should be in the very heart of our society, connected with it by the living bonds of varied cooperation. For true education is to realise at every step how our training and knowledge have organic connection with our surroundings.



**Rabindranath
Tagore**
Author of Gitanjali



Cyclicity in Ecology

An important principle of ecology is the cyclical nature of most ecological processes. The interactions among the members of an ecosystem involve the exchange of energy and resources in continual cycles - the water cycle, the CO₂ cycle and the various nutrient cycles. Communities of organisms have evolved over billions of years, continually using and recycling the same molecules of minerals, water, and air.

The lesson for business here is obvious. The present clash between business and nature, between economics and ecology, is mainly due to the fact that nature is cyclical, whereas our industrial systems are linear, taking up energy and resources from the earth, transforming them into products plus waste, discarding the waste, and finally throwing away the products also after they have been used.



Fritjof Capra
Physicist & Ecologist
Gunter Pauli
Author of "The Blue Economy"



Kamala Chowdhry
Environmentalism and
worked on 'Waste
land development'



Tainted Vision of Development

Modern technology propelled by the forces of market and politics exercises unfettered power over other nations as well as over nature. It has been responsible for our disappearing forests, disappearing rivers and wetlands, disappearing crop lands for more and more cities, disappearing bio-diversity and disappearing fossil and mineral wealth, and increasing of wastelands.

Are we troubled with the technologies that we have invented dealing with death and destruction to other species and used for gaining wealth and power? We have seen what pesticides have done to the soil and water, and to the health of farmers and their children. We have built dams, uprooting thousands of people, destroying homes and cultures because of the tainted vision of development we have. Have we soiled our souls with the kind of science and technologies we have pursued?