Relevance of 'Yajna' for a Healthy

Society

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Indian rituals have given an eminent place to Yajna which has been interwoven in the life of Indians from centuries. Today due to the ignorance of people 'Yajna might have been labeled as waste of energy, time and valuable things and so on but recent past research has shown a positive attitude towards this ritual. The research has revealed that Yajna purifies the environment and distress the humans' mind. In this regard VYASA played a major role which researched on this subject and published the article in the IJIRSE (International journal of innovative research in science and engineering). The contribution of Yajna can be divided into two categories environment respectively. Environment Friendly and living beings friendly respectively.

The derivation of term Yajna is very important before proceeding to detailed explanation of it. The term Yajna derived from a Sanskrit root of the verb called 'Yajadevapoojasangatikaranadaneshu’ which means worship of god. During Vedic time there was no idol worship like today, hence people used to offer their offerings through fire god because fire is believed as the mouth of gods. It is said in Sanskrit अद्रिर्मुख देवतानामा, Therefore, they were performing sacrifices to offer their offerings to god.

History of Yajna:

It is generally believed that fire-worship and offering of sacrifice were first practiced by the Vedic Aryans because the references made in Veda but archaeological excavations have proven that Indus-valley civilization's brick altars and offering animals in sacrifice was the beginning of Yajna. Kalibangan of Rajasthan is the evidence for this. Hence if we have to trace the origin of the concept of sacrifice and its evolution in the Vedic period then we need to heed on the concept of sacrifice fire and sacrificial altars of Harappa sites. Next evidence is Indus coins where fire-altars, fire-god and scenes of offering oblations to fire-god are depicted. So we can say that history of sacrifice dates back to pre-Vedic period.

Information of Yajna:

The word Yajna meant differently in different situation though it popularly known as Sacrifice in English. In Upanishads the sexual meeting of human in the intention of only a good child is called as Prajaptyayajna. In Geeta the deep concentration to gain knowledge is called Jnanayajna and generally Yajna means sacrifice. In Sanatana Dharma five yajnas are very famous Deva (God). Pitru(Father), Brahma (Vedic chant), Manushya (Human) and Bhoota (Living-beings or Elements) yajnas. When we talk about Deva yajna, it means offering Havis in the sacrifice which is purified by Vedic mantra (यदग्नौ जुहोति अपि समिध तमैवयज्ञः सन्निष्ठते) Pitruyajna means offering kavya through the chant 'पितृभ्यस्वधा , Brahma yajna means chanting the Rik, yajus or sama every day (यह स्वाध्यायमधीचीत एकमप्य्क्ष यजुः साम या तत् ब्रह्मयज्ञः सन्तिहते), Manushyayajna means feeding the Brahmins ददाति तन्मनुष्ययज्ञः सन्तिष्ठते) and the final one is Bhootayajna which means offering food to other living beings or five elements (पद्धतेभ्यो बलि ददाति तद्भतयज्ञ सनिष्ठते). Thus in scripture five sacrifices are famous. Apart from this Geetacharya classifieds five yajnas,

द्वष्ययज्ञस्तपोयज्ञ योगयज्ञस्तथापरे।

स्वाध्यायज्ञानयज्ञाश्च यत्तयः संशितव्रता।

According to this द्रव्य तपोयोग, मध्य and ज्ञानयज्ञ, in this very article we are discussing on Yajna which means Sacrifice in English. A sacrifice consists of three constituents प्रध्यम (Things to be offered) (Deity) and त्याग (offerings). The agents who are directly or indirectly responsible for sacrifice are sacrifice, his wife and priests. There are different categories of fires used in the sacrifice according to their locations Ahavaniya, Salamukhiya and Garhapatya, prajahitta Anvaharyapachana, Dakshinagai and Pracinavamse Actually Ahavaneeya, Garhapatya and Dakshinagi are three major fires who called by different names.