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Assignment No.2

Aim: “What is meant by prosperity?. How can it be ascertained?
Does accumulation ensure prosperity?”

Ans.

Prosperity is success or the state of success, especially financial or material success. It is the state of being successful and having a lot of money. When someone possesses more than required number of physical facilities, they may feel prosperous. Wealth, on the other hand, is a materialistic concept and solely related to physical facilities. Prosperity is a feeling that also includes Wealth.

The feeling of having or making available more than required physical facilities is prosperity. Almost all of us feel that wealth alone means prosperity and try to explain this phenomenon on this non-existent or half fact. We are trying to achieve happiness and prosperity by maximizing accumulation and consumption of physical facilities. It is becoming anti-ecological and anti-people, and threatening the human survival itself.

Income, freedom, health, religious beliefs, stability, security, and family life are among the factors contributing to human prosperity.

For prosperity, two things are required-

1) Identification of the required quantity of physical facilities, and

2) Ensuring availability / production of more than required physical facilities.

The right assessment of physical needs, along with their required quantity, will come through right understanding. Without that right assessment, the feeling of prosperity cannot be assured, regardless of the availability or accumulation of physical facility that we may have been able to do.

Just assessing the need is not enough. We need to ensure the availability or production of more than the required quantity. This requires skills, technology and production. With both of these, right assessment and availability, we have more than required physical facility. Over and above that, it is a matter of feeling that we have more than enough.

To ascertain prosperity, two things are essential:

- (a) Correct assessment of need for physical facilities, and
- (b) The competence of making available more than required physical facilities (through production).

Prosperity vs Accumulation

It is generally assumed that the richer you are, the more prosperous you are, i.e. the more you have accumulated, the more prosperous you are. With this sort of assumption, we pursue prosperity with an obsession for profit, for accumulation. That is happening all around. The major focus in the society today is on accumulation of physical facility. In particular, there is a major focus on accumulating money.

Today, most of the wealth (money) in the world is owned by a very tiny percentage of people. Many such people are seen exploiting

others, and exploiting the Earth, in an effort to accumulate even more.

Without clarity about how much is required, the effort is for an unlimited quantity of physical facility, and by almost any means. First the efforts may be by legal means, and then slip to even illegal means. This is all because the quantity required is undefined and there is a feeling of deprivation!