So… if it works, it works. Just accept if it works, and we should document [pluralistic health ideas].

Do you think that the way that our science, and particularly technology, has progressed, science education is tilting towards more technologies that are serving Big Business and corporate profits, rather than this developmental model of really looking critically at society?

Yes, I think so.

I think that these material questions are no longer the motivators of science. I mean, it’s so unfashionable to say these things; you are lumped as Gandhian (you know, which I hardly am). These brass tacks are going out of fashion.

But science today gives something else. Longevity of life, for example. Science has convinced us, and is delivering on its promise of making us live longer. Whether those extra five years are of higher quality is not under discussion. You know, this is the same as people coming from really nice places in the Konkan to a slum in in Mumbai and staying there because they want certainty. Life in rural Maharashtra is very hard. There’s more certainty if I’m a peon or a security guard in the city.

I think that science is really offering some ‘certainty’. And that is what we seem to have accepted. And that certainty is coming from many of these scientific things, which we don’t understand, and which are delivered by Big Science.

Big Technology has a knack of turning us all into consumers of science, by neutralising questions on ‘how’ and ‘why’ things work. We accept it and we enjoy the benefits. But see, if you know the benefits are divided very unevenly, why doesn’t it bother us?

For example, if you buy an Apple iPhone for Rs. 75,000 how much does the actual makers of the phone (factory workers) get? I call it the Buddhufication Crisis; a lot of people are just hooked on to their smartphones, and live in a bubble of manufactured certainty; and the rest of society that can’t access smartphones, is left to deal with real-world problems.

Tell us more about this Buddhufication Crisis.

I am a birdwatcher, and if you look at the wild, if you look at the jungle, if animals were as ignorant about the way things worked, they would be dead meat. Can you imagine a deer that can’t judge how close the tiger is? It will be eaten. But we human beings seem to sustain such stupidity in ourselves. So we are living longer, we are still shitting on the road or, you know, letting our sewage be cleaned by fellow humans at the risk of death, but we are living longer. And that is, I think, a big problem.

So, these are the two or three things, which are learnings for me. And I think that the role of culture and sustainability is really important.

Science can offer us certainty, you said. What is the relationship between science and desire?