

The concept of sewa in Vishwadharmam and its impact

By Dr. Srija Badrinarayanan (Anya Gana), Frankfurt am Main Shakha.

“Sathyam vadha, Dharmam chara”... Always be truthful and walk in the path of righteousness. This is the quintessence of our Sanathana dharma.

Yes! Dharma is an integral part of the life of a Hindu.

What does dharma mean? Doing one's duty in the righteous manner. If each one of us fulfil our duty and our responsibilities in our roles with love, care and empathy towards all the elements of nature then Vishwadharmam is established. Our roles and responsibility may range from being a student, as a parent, as a sibling, as a citizen, as a socially responsible individual, then our world will be a peaceful place.

Our Sanathana dharma is a beautiful concept, where we do not differentiate between the creator and creation. We see God in everything. It is an exquisite feeling to experience the presence of God in the smile of a toddler, in a fragrant flower, rustle of leaves, blowing of wind, twinkle of a star, tusk of an Elephant, roar of the Lion, the beauty of deep woods or the ecstasy experienced to think about the pristine glaciers.

Sewa when implemented in its complete form, would lead us to exude care towards every element of this universe. According to the words of Swamiji, arise, awake and stop not till your goal is reached. Let us arise, awake and spread the spirit of sewa and vishwadharmam. If vishwadharmam is established, then why should we worry about pollution, climate change, deforestation, extinction of animals or immorality and social evils?

This Vishwa or the universe is the manifestation of the ultimate truth, the omnipotent and omnipresent Bhagavan. Sewa plays a crucial role in establishing vishwadharmam. Sewa is multi-dimensional and includes a broad spectrum of activities ranging from feeding the hunger and intellect of every child; empowering the downtrodden; protecting all the animals; conservation of the ecosystem; restoration of ancient sculptures, monuments and temples; rejuvenation of forgotten folklore; renewal of interests towards traditional art forms; creating awareness of the scientific development in impoverished villages; conducting blood donation camps; thereby creating a positive change in the place we live!!

Some people are of the thought that sewa could be done only in impoverished countries. On the contrary, every being can be the recipient as well as provider of sewa.

People living in Europe generally do not have much economic constraints. In contrast, compassion and empathy are the need of the hour. Due to increased longevity, concept of single parenting and patched families, many elderly people end up in old age homes. They are pushed to a life of solitude. We, the followers of Sanathana dharma and members of HSS can visit them and our children can do some performances to engage them. This hold good to the refugees who are in a great distress and psychological depression.

Initiatives can be taken to meet them and our children can play with the refugee children and try to bring out the child in these children which is deeply traumatized due to the worst

experiences they have had back in their home lands. According to me, sewa is nothing but,
Sharing our Energy and time With empathy for the Alleviation of our society

Conclusion:

“Vasudeiva kutumbakam” emphasises that the whole world is a one family including all the birds, animals, insects, plants, trees and fellow human beings. This holistic approach of vishwadharma leads to a harmonious life on this planet for every living being.

“Vishwadharma ki jai!”