Conclusion

Non Violent Lifestyle (NVLS) model for Sustainable Development

Concept of sustainability is crucial for the survival of man in current happening environment. The foundation prerequisites of sustainability are non violence and peaceful coexistence of man with man, man with society, man with nature and man with economy. It aims at fulfilling the current needs with care for future requirements.

Issue of Sustainability arises because of the three major problems -

1. Excessive environmental degradation which is resulting in extinct of many species of flora and fauna and thus unbalancing the nature’s equilibrium creating deficiency of resources for future generations.

2. Uneven consumption pattern which leads to the unavailability of basics requirement to larger portion of population and this is a major cause of violence.

3. Concentration of economic power in few hands which lead to formulation of global common policies in their favour ignoring the larger humanity concern.

In order to be sustainable, development must combine with sustainable life style which takes care of present along with future. Non Violent Life Style model as per Jainism is a very practical approach for attaining the sustainable development. Nonviolence is the heart of Jainism. All the actions are motivated by the virtue of nonviolence. It’s all the six components integratedly work towards the main objectives of Jainism through the mode of nonviolence. These objectives are –

1. Practicing self restraint

2. Developing the feeling of equanimity for all living forms

Practice of self restraint puts limit on a person to consume things in limited quantity. This limit applies on almost everything – water, food, doing occupations, acquiring property, on excessive movements in specific direction etc. The main logic behind all these restriction is to reduce and
finally to end all the attachments with worldly affairs which is core of nonviolence. If a person learns to become less attached to material things, he will make less consumption, less wastage and thus greater availability for others. Hence this practice of self restrain takes care of an important problem of uneven consumption pattern and concentration of economic power at fewer hands.

The Jain philosophy repeatedly states that all living beings are equal. None is superior and none is inferior. Hence all should be treated equally. This phenomenon sorts out the problem of excessive natural exploitation and malnutrition of larger part of population as if we treat the environment and other fellow beings like us, we will care for them as we takes care of ourselves. Further it will allow participation of all from local to international level. At thought level, Jainism’s Anekantavada philosophy states that no common man knows complete truth and therefore views of others are also acceptable. This philosophy decreases the chances of disputes on other views and reduces the arrogance of own view. This develops the virtue of tolerance at both thought and behavioral level.

Hence in nutshell, NVLS model based on Jainism is a very practical approach which can be followed be every person without compromising his/her religious, social beliefs and sentiments. This model has the solution to all major problems evolving on the roads of sustainable development.