CHAPTER V

OCCUPATIONAL LIFE

The occupational or work life is an important social aspect. There are diverse means of occupation which benefit different parts of the society. Though occupational stratification is there, the dignity of labour enables the human beings to command self-respect and esteem irrespective of the different types of work involved.

One can achieve excellence by attending to those work which sustains one's basic interest and aptitude. By following the doctrine of core competence and by education and training one can march towards the path of excellence and perfection.

5.1 Occupations

Different people pursue varied occupations based on their inherent aptitude and interest. Many a time people have to make up their mind to take up the jobs which are available for them.

Occupations are perhaps the most visible statuses to which prestige is attached in an industrial society. 195

Vedānta Deśika inspires one to be industrious, hard working and righteous.

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One shall strive hard to be successful in his endeavours

Jāta Kṣobham vimathnan diśi diśi diviśadvāhinimśa kṣaṇena. 196
One gets criticized if one does things which ought not to be done so.

Parihasati murāreh pāduke! Bāliśānām

Paśuvadhapariśeṣān pāṇḍito nāmāyajñān. 197

5.1.1 Trade

Trade, business and commerce constitute the centre stage of any economy.

Foreign trade offers lucrative prospects at any point of time.

Vedanta Deśika encourages overseas trade for the sake of money by those who are interested in money-making.

Taratu vivithsayābdhimadhirohathu śailatatam

Dhamathu ca dhāthuvarghamathigacchathu śasthamukham

Thadhidhamarunthudham yaduta bahvavadhāya bhiyā

Dhanamadhamedhurakṣithibhrūdankanānachaṅkramāṇam 198

5.1.2 Archery

The art of archery is meant for the warriors who want to demonstrate their prowess and capabilities. Specialisation in this field fetches wealth for one.

One can also learn śastra for the sake of earning money.

196 Garuda Pancasat 20
197 Paduka Sahasram 47
198 Subhasita Nivi v-12
Taratu vivithsayābdhimadhirohathu ūailatatam

Dhamathu ca dhāthuvarghamathigacchathu āsthramukham

Thadhidhamarunthudham yaduta bahvavadhāya bhiyā

Dhanamadhadhamedhurakṣhithibhrūdankaṇaḥchaṅkramaṇam ¹⁹⁹

5.1.3 Sculpture

Sculpture is the age-old branch of fine arts.

There is reference about sculpture.

Viddhyāsilpapragunamatina venkatesena kluptam

Cintāśānollikhitamasakṛut śreyasām prāptihetum. ²⁰⁰

5.1.4 Jewellery

Goldsmith is the creator of exquisite jewellery out of gold.

One can do the functions of a goldsmith for the purpose of making money.

Taratu vivithsayābdhimadhirohathu ūailatatam

Dhamathu ca dhāthuvarghamathigacchathu āsthramukham

Thadhidhamarunthudham yaduta bahvavadhāya bhiyā

Dhanamadhadhamedhurakṣhithibhrūdankaṇaḥchaṅkramaṇaṃ ²⁰¹

¹⁹⁹ Subhasita Nivi v-12
²⁰⁰ Hamsa Sandesam ii-50
²⁰¹ Subhasita Nivi v-12
5.1.5 Mountaineering

Mountaineering is an adventurous sport which only the bold can pursue.

One can be adventurous by undertaking mountaineering for the sake of earning money.

_Taratu vivithsayābdhimadhirohathu śailatatam_

_Dhamathu ca dhāthuvarghamathigacchathu śasthramukham_

_Thadhidhamarunthudham yaduta bahvavadhāya bhīyā_

_Dhanamadhamedhurakṣhithibhrūdankanāchaṅkramanam_\(^{202}\)

5.1.6 Farming

Farming is the backbone of any agrarian economy. It demands the toil and sweat of the farmers who produce the agricultural crops for the benefit of the various members of the society.

_Vedānta Deśika_ has high regards for the farmers as they relentlessly toil in the fields.

For the villagers who are engrossed in _krusī_, the dance or music of city women do not appeal.

_Nādhamanganathālānām lāngalee natañochitam_

_śruthikṣhameshu grāmeshu na mūrchatī gūtivat_\(^{203}\)

\(^{202}\) ibid
\(^{203}\) Subhasita Nivi v-12
5.1.7 Architecture

Architecture is the aesthetic art of civil engineering which demands creativity and an artistic outlook.

The crystal stones reveal the civil engineering skills.

Vapreṣu yasyāḥ spatikapradesān dvārābhimanāt dvatamāpatantaḥ
Avāpurāgantujanāḥ saleelairantaḥgmetairnāgarakairnirodam. 204

The city architecture excels.

Prachoditastatra ca viswakarmā nāthaprasathyi nalināsanādyaiḥ
Rathyādivaichitriyavathim vithene rāśim guṇānāmiva rājadhānīm 205

5.1.8 Iron smelting

Iron smelting facilitates the making of tools and implements for use in agriculture as well as industry.

The process of iron smelting is mentioned in the works of Vedānta Deśika.

Ayasastāpasekābhyāmavasthā 206

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204 Vadavabhudayam xi-65
205 ibid xi-31
206 Vadavabhudayam xxii-44
5.1.9 Service

A servant does service according to the requirements.

_Yathocita pariṣṇa kṛitye vartisyē_ ²⁰⁷

5.2 Excellence

People shall strive to achieve excellence in whatever pursuits they are doing, as this alone helps one to maximize efficiency and productivity.

_Vedānta Deśika_ recognizes that different people excel in their pursuit in the world.

Different types of achievers exist in the world, who excel others in terms of relative performance. _Jahnu_ is nothing before _Agastya_, who in turn may look trivial before the Lord who as a child kept the entire world in his stomach.

_Astutāvatadagastyena jahno mahimanihnavāb_

_Kā katā tasya bālasya viśwagrāsepyatpyatah_ ²⁰⁸

5.2.1 Education and training

Education is a great social institution. For properly doing a job, one requires not only the basic education but also specialized skills. This calls for structured training.

For doing a job properly, one needs training and education.

_Krathamupyanagam sa dharma sūnurhaviṣam_

_Bhoktari datta sannidāne_

_Vidivat swadhiya samarpya cakre_

²⁰⁷ Sankalpa Suryodayam vii 402
²⁰⁸ Subhasita Nivi ii-5
5.2.2 Core competence

Core competence reflects the unique strength and demonstrated capability of an individual, whereby he can grow substantially.

One shall be given an assignment in which he has the core competence.

_Haridāsvasamudbhavam pradāne dhanagupthou Ca suyodhanam nyayunkta_  
_Swayameva samāhitena vavrae harinā viprapadāvane janāṃśab_  

5.2.3 Duty

Fulfillment of one’s duties wholly and satisfactorily is the objective of any enlightened individual.

One shall duly comply with one’s duties and obligations

_Ńspannakṛitya_  

5.2.4 Self-respect

One shall maintain self-respect and dignity at all points of time. One shall not stoop down to any extent throwing to winds one’s self-esteem for sheer sake of physical existence in this world.

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209 Yadavabhudayam xi-32
210 ibid xv-33
211 Raghuvira Gadyam
At the same time, *Vedānta Deśika* denounces slavery in terms of serving with fear an ill-worthy rich man or king for the sake of money alone.

*Taratu vividsayābdī madhirohatuśailatatam*

*Dhamatu ca dātu vargha mathi gachatu āstramukham*

*tadida marundudam yadutabahvavadhvāya bhiya*

*dhanamadamedurakṣiti bhṛdaṅkana caṅkramanam*.\(^{212}\)

5.3 Summary

This Chapter has highlighted the occupational stratification and the path to achieve excellence.

Ethical life marks the real evolution of the society based on moral principles and value systems. This aspect of social life is covered in the ensuing Chapter.

\(^{212}\) Subhasita Nivi v-12