



UHV-II: Universal Human Values – Understanding Harmony and Ethical Human Conduct

Module 5 – Implications of the Holistic Understanding – a Look at Professional Ethics

Module 5 – Implications of the Holistic Understanding – a Look at Professional Ethics (6 lectures and 3 tutorials/ practice sessions)

Lecture 23: Natural Acceptance of Human Values

Lecture 24: Definitiveness of (Ethical) Human Conduct

Tutorial 12: Practice Session PS 12 *Exploring Ethical Human Conduct*

Lecture 25: A Basis for Humanistic Education, Humanistic Constitution and Universal Human Order

Lecture 26: Competence in Professional Ethics

Tutorial 13: Practice Session PS 13 *Exploring Humanistic Models in Education*

Lecture 27: Holistic Technologies, Production Systems and Management Models-Typical Case Studies

Lecture 28: Strategies for Transition towards Value-based Life and Profession

Tutorial 14: Practice Session PS 14 *Exploring Steps of Transition towards Universal Human Order*

It may be pertinent to mention that this course also presents a rather ‘unconventional’, but more fundamental approach to professional ethics where the major focus is on the development of the ethical competence of the individual rather than relying only on codes of conduct, oaths, whistle-blowing etc.

For more details

UHV-II: Universal Human Values – Understanding Harmony and Ethical Human Conduct
A one-semester 3-credit mandatory course in the AICTE Model Curriculum 2021

Presentations, Handout of Class Notes:

<https://fdp-si.aicte-india.org/download.php#1>

Recordings on YouTube: Professional Ethics lectures of UHV-II Lectures 23-28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BikdYub6RY0&list=PLWDeKF97v9SPFYVPis99I9eD-wZf0RypK>





Lecture 26: Holistic Development towards Humane Society and Tradition

Recap

- We saw how right understanding provides the foundation for the identification of **universal human values** in all the dimensions of life.
- It also facilitates the recognition of the definitiveness of **ethical human conduct**.
- Moving on to other important implications of right understanding, in this lecture, we will see how right understanding enables us to visualise holistic development resulting into a **humane society** (undivided society and universal human order) and **humanistic tradition**.

We have already explored into how a humane society would be, and we will recall that in brief for our ready reference.

Visualization of Comprehensive Human Goal

- An important implication of the right understanding is the visualization of comprehensive human goal which is conducive to human welfare (wellbeing of all).
- In the light of the right understanding, it is possible to visualise the pattern of a **holistic way of life** to ensure the fulfillment of comprehensive human goal, a model of human living which is **people-friendly** and **eco-friendly**, therefore, **sustainable**.

Paving the Way towards a Humanistic Tradition

- The primary step to move towards the holistic way of life is to develop the right understanding among the human beings, commitment to live accordingly and then to develop the requisite skills and knowledge systems to implement the right understanding in real life. Thus, it calls for a change in the education system towards humanistic education. The right understanding provides us with the vision of such a humanistic education.
- The humanistic tradition can be visualised in terms of the following four aspects of a humane society-
 - Humanistic Education
 - Human Conduct
 - Human Constitution
 - Universal Human Order

Human Tradition (in which Human Goal is fulfilled generation to generation)

Conduct that ensures continuity of mutual happiness & prosperity

Human Conduct
(आचरण)

Education that ensures the development of the competence to live with Definite Human Conduct

Human Education
(शिक्षा)

Entry Point

Nature of society of people living together in a relationship of mutual fulfillment

Human Constitution
(संविधान)

Human Tradition
(मानवीय परंपरा)

The society in which Human Goal is realised

Human Order
(व्यवस्था)



Key Takeaways

- Humanistic education leads to human conduct, human constitution, universal human order and in turn, universal human order ensures humanistic education for the next generation.
- The entry point in setting the wheel of humanistic tradition rolling, is humanistic education.
- Important thing to note here is that-
- This humane society and human tradition is something which is a natural outcome of the existential harmony (order) already existing and unfolding itself through a natural process, and this process is to be completed through human being.
- To meaningfully participate in this natural process, human being has to understand this existential harmony (order) and live in accordance with it.
- It is not just a human construct, though, it is articulated and expressed by human being in their own way



Lecture 27: Holistic Technologies, Production Systems and Management Models-Typical Case Studies

Recap

- As discussed in the previous lectures, the right understanding provides us the vision for a holistic development and humane society (universal human order).
- Such a model will necessitate the visualization and development of appropriate technologies, production systems and management models etc. which cater to the fulfilment of such a vision.
- We will discuss some of the details in this lecture.

Harmony in Society – Universal Human Order

Human Goal



Systems / Dimensions of Human Order

1. Education – Sanskar - शिक्षा संस्कार
2. Health – Self-regulation - स्वास्थ्य संयम
3. Production – Work - उत्पादन कार्य
4. Justice – Preservation - न्याय सुरक्षा
5. Exchange – Storage - विनिमय कोष

Scope – From Family Order to World Family Order (Universal Human Order)

Family – Family cluster – Village – Village cluster ... Nation ... World Family
Order Order Order Order Order Order
~10¹ ~10² ~10¹⁰

Need for a Holistic Worldview

- In the present times, there is a great zeal for the development and adoption of innovative technologies and systems, tools, techniques and models which are claimed for the 'betterment' of society.
- More and more sophistication and complexity are being added. However, most of the effort is going on under the influence of the dominant world view (limited to materialistic perception); needless to say that the holistic world-view is missing in such efforts.
- As a result, both the structure as well as the use/misuse of these innovations, is often proving to be counterproductive, contrary to the long-term human welfare.
- Therefore, there is a strong need to develop technologies and systems with holistic objectives governed by right understanding to render them conducive to sustainable human welfare (through humane society).

A Holistic Criteria for Evaluation

- Catering to appropriate needs and lifestyles
- Eco-friendly (cyclic / renewable and mutually enriching)
- People-friendly- ensuring self-development and mutual fulfillment in human beings
- User-friendly – safe, economical and enhancing human capability

In addition, these have to promote local self-sufficiency and optimal utilization of local resources and expertise.

As far as possible, priority should be for naturally available processes and systems.

In the light of these broad criteria, specific criteria for Evaluation can be broadly defined for the area of technologies, production systems and management models as follows;

Criteria for Technologies

- Catering to real human needs (of both the body and the self)
- Compatible with natural systems and cycles
- Facilitating effective utilization of human body, animals, plants and other natural materials
- Safe, user-friendly and conducive to health
- Low cost and energy efficient
- Producing with local resources and expertise as far as possible
- Promoting the use of renewable energy resources
- Enhancing human interaction and cooperation
- Promoting decentralisation
- Enhanced Durability, life cycle and recyclability of products

Criteria for Production Systems

- In determining the type of production systems, the key questions to be answered are:
 - What to produce?
 - How to produce?
 - For whom to produce?
 - How much to produce?

These questions (issues) have been discussed while studying about the harmony in society-human goal and its fulfillment through different dimensions of the societal system.

So, the needs are to be characterised in consonance with the comprehensive human goal and they have to be fulfilled through human systems defined there.

- All these will be decided in the context of availability of local natural resources and expertise to cater to the needs of the people for any given community.

Specific Criteria Production Systems

- Optimal and efficient utilization of local resources and expertise, including human beings, animals, air, solar, land, water, other bio and mineral resources etc.
- Economic viability and sustainability
- Priority for local consumption
- Matching the pattern of production with the availability/ producibility in the local environment and the pattern of consumption
- Decentralized systems capable of meaningful employment of people in the community
- Facilitating production by masses and not mass production in a centralized mode, to the extent possible
- Promoting individual creativity and sense of accomplishment
- Using people-friendly and eco-friendly technologies
- Ensuring requisite quality and quantity of production
- Harnessing recycling, conservation and reuse possibilities
- Safe and conducive to the health of persons involved in production as well as others. Ultimately it should be conducive for self-development.

Criteria for Management Models

Primarily management models are to be relationship based, cooperative and ensuring justice in terms of mutual fulfillment and not coercive and exploitative. Specifically,

- The whole unit working as a well-knit family
- Cooperative, motivational and mutually fulfilling
- Ensuring correct appraisal of human labour and skills
- Targeting employer-employee satisfaction as well as consumer satisfaction and not profit maximization
- Sharing of responsibility and participative mode of management
- Continuous value addition (self-evolution) of the persons involved
- Effectively integrating individual competencies and complementarity

A Critical Appraisal of the Prevailing Systems

- Present-day systems have been largely developed under the influence of the dominant world view (limited to materialistic perception)
- This has caused menace of resource depletion on one hand and environmental degradation manifesting in the form of pollution and global warming etc. on the other.
- The other undesirable characteristics of modern technologies and systems include their centralized configurations, promotion of wastefulness, excessive transportation and substitution of human, animal and other natural resources by man-made gadgets, machines and materials (largely dependent on non-renewable energy sources)
- It has given a lower priority (no priority) to human development and human fulfillment as far as human consciousness is concerned.

Learning from the Systems in Nature and Traditional Practices

To gain an insight into the holistic systems, we have a lot to learn from systems of nature and from traditional practices. Typically,

- The water harvesting and storage and utilization systems through ponds and other artifacts
- Traditional agricultural practices
- Grain storage and food preservation practices
- Systems of sharing food and shelter prevalent in social and religious institutions, e.g. langar
- Traditional local remedies and health-care techniques
- Yoga, Ayurveda, Naturopathy-based and other traditional healthcare systems
- Family based rural enterprises
- The jajmani system – relationship-based village system to ensure rural self-sufficiency
- Rural craft and artisanal practices

Visualizing a Holistic Community Model – Working Towards it Harmony at

- It is high time that we start working for actualization of the model of human order at the village level (a Holistic Community Model – gram-swarajya) in the light of right understanding.
- Several groups of people have started working in this direction seriously.
- As a result, many technologies and systems have been evolved even though the full-scale demonstration of such alternative ways of living is yet to emerge.
- There needs to be an increasing and wide spread thrust to evolve holistic technologies and systems through dedicated R&D efforts working within the framework of right understanding

We will present some details about such a Holistic Community Model– each one of us can try to work out the further details and come up with a working model.

Some Topics for Case Studies

1. Renewable and Decentralized Energy Technologies (a) Biomass based Energy Conversion systems (b) Gadgets and Implements to facilitate efficient utilization of human muscle power and animal draught power (c) Decentralized Wind power (d) Micro hydel electro-mechanical power generation etc.
2. Systems for water conservation and water shed management for efficient utilization of rain water and for eco-restoration.
3. Technologies and architecture promoting green building materials and energy conservation
4. Organic/natural farming techniques
5. Eco-sanitation techniques for small scale decentralized sewage disposal and waste water recycling
6. Low cost and energy efficient technologies for small scale production systems
7. Humanistic organizational/management models

Key Takeaways

- Based on right understanding, the guidelines, criteria, examples and case studies about Holistic Technologies, Production Systems and Management Models can be worked out.
- We can also learn from the systems in nature and the traditional practices to evolve a holistic model of living ensuring harmony at all levels.



Lecture 28: Strategies for Transition towards Value-based Life and Profession

Recap

- At this concluding stage, it is appropriate to recapitulate the core message of this course and then to visualise the steps that each one of us can take for transition from our present state towards a holistic, fulfilling way of life towards universal human order.

The Core Message

- To be able to fulfil the basic human aspirations i.e., happiness and prosperity and their continuity, it is essential to gain the right understanding – the understanding about oneself vis-a-vis the rest of existence, the understanding about continuous happiness and prosperity.
- This involves the realization that there is an innate harmony at all levels of existence. In fact, the whole existence is co-existence.
- It is the essential purpose of human beings to understand this harmony and co-existence and learn to live in accordance with it and be fulfilled.
- It thus leads to:
 - Individual transformation – from animal consciousness to human consciousness and
 - Societal transformation – from inhuman society to humane society

Steps for Transformation

Step 1: Steps for Individual Transformation

Step 2: Creating Mass Awareness towards Holistic Development

Step 3: Moving towards Humanising the Mainstream Education

Step 4: Developing Models for Holistic Living in Educational Institutions and
in the Community

Step 1: Value Education

मूल्य शिक्षा

- Incorporating values in existing curriculum
- Incorporating case studies of harmonious living: Cases from local Culture, Civilisation, Knowledge System. e.g. Local, regional, Indian culture, civilisation – Indian Knowledge System (IKS)
- Incorporating practice in Skill Development

Step 2: Value Based Education

मूल्य परक (संस्कार आधारित) शिक्षा

- Organising the whole curriculum on the basis of values, for living in harmony
- Holistic and Value-Based and Practice Oriented and Integrative Skill Development

Step 3: Value Based Living

मूल्य परक जीना (मानवीय संस्कृति पर आधारित)

- Practice of living in harmony, harmonious behaviour, work and participation for harmony – in family, institution, society... nation... world

Key Takeaways

- To ensure happiness and prosperity and their continuity for all human beings, the transition to human consciousness and humane society is essential.
- This requires a dedicated effort to implement at a mass scale, the humanistic education focusing on right understanding.



Practice Sessions

For Module 5 (Lectures 26-28)

1. By careful analysis, identify some important features which, when incorporated, will make our education more humanistic. What are the right expectations in terms of the outcome from humanistic education?
2. Some people feel that talking about holistic development is like trying to turn the wheel of time backwards. It will greatly hamper our progress. What is your view in this regard? Explain with justification.

Expected Outcome

The students are able to detail out various social systems essential for their own fulfilment, as well as the fulfilment of future generations. In particular, they are able to visualise the education system required for individual, and then societal transformation. They are also able to appreciate those many efforts made in the tradition that were in line with desirable human goals. Thus, they are able to learn from tradition and develop a deep sense of gratitude for the effort, for the people, for the tradition, culture etc.

Tutorial 14: Practice Session PS14

Exploring Steps of Transition towards Universal Human Order

1. Suggest ways in which you can use your knowledge of Technology/ Engineering/ Management/Medicine etc. for universal human order, from your family order to the world family order.
2. The course is going to be over now. Evaluate your state before and after the course in terms of a. Thought b. Behaviour c. Work d. Realization
3. Do you have any plan to participate in the transition for the humane society after graduating from the institute? Write a brief note on it.

Expected Outcome

The students are able to visualise an appropriate utilization of the knowledge in their respective streams to ensure mutually enriching and sustainable systems. They are able to sincerely evaluate the course and the transformation achieved in this process. They are also able to make use of this understanding for moving towards a happy and prosperous life, including an ethical conduct of their profession.



FAQs for Lectures 26-28

Ethics

- Do you think the society can ever turn ethical? We have been talking about ethics for a long time.
- ...





Self Reflection