Harmony in Social Action

samanvaya
samānvaya: harmony or concord in sanskrit

Asparsayogai nama sarva-sattva-sukho hitah;
Avivado avoriddhasca destitastam namamyaham

- Mandukya Upanisad Karika, 4.2

“I salute this profound philosophy, which proclaims the unity and solidarity of all existence, which works for the happiness and welfare of all beings, and which is free from disputation and contradiction.” — Gaudapada, 7th century A.D.
“samavaya eva sadhu”
– edict of Ashoka

A spiritual and philosophical vision can remain as a vision, producing a few saints and sages; but India...tried to incorporate that vision of Samanvaya into a great cultural experiment...slowly percolated into the people and influenced inter-human relationships. She succeeded in this in the cultural and religious fields wonderfully, but did not succeed in the social field”

Swami Ranganathananda, “Samanvaya, the Vision of India”
saŵaŶvaLJa: shariŶg

edžperieŶce iŶ social actioŶ

of 2 decades…

staƌted ǁith the assuŵptioŶ –

ϭ. theƌe aƌe iŶstitutioŶs / iŶdiǀiduals eŶgaged iŶ soĐial

aĐtioŶ that Ŷeed help to aƌtiĐulate, oƌgaŶize aŶd
deliǀeƌ the ĐhaŶge theLJ desiƌe

ϭ. suĐh help ĐaŶ ďe pƌoǀided thƌough ŵakiŶg aǀailaďl e

oŶes’ skills aŶd kŶoǁledge at aŶ affoƌdaďle Đost

ϯ. suĐh seƌǀiĐe Đould ďe giǀeŶ as a haƌŵoŶiziŶg foƌĐ e

ďƌiŶg togetheƌ diffeƌeŶt eŶeƌgies, ƌesouƌĐes aŶd

ideas to plaLJ aloŶg

ϰ. theƌe is eŶough spaĐe foƌ people to Đƌeate suĐh a Ŷ

iŶstitutioŶ aŶd suƌǀiǀe iŶ the ĐuƌƌeŶt gloďal spaŶce

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sam anvaya: sharing experience in social action of 2 decades…

started with the assumption –

1. there are institutions / individuals engaged in social

action that need help to articulate, organize and
deliver the change they desire

2. such help can be provided through making available

ones’ skills and knowledge at an affordable cost

3. such service could be given as a harmonizing force

bringing together different energies, resources and
ideas to play along

4. there is enough space for people to create such an

institution and survive in the current global space
• Never seek grants or fellowships, to live by the money we generate through being useful to institutions that work for society,
• Never consider our interests or grow ourselves into a large institution, to remain small and supportive to existing ideas & institutions
• Never to seek publicity for ourselves, but only to the work we do and the ideas they represent and only as much as required for the effort to be optimized.
• Always to be available to as many people with ideas and working for society and don't particularly care if they can pay us or not.
• To always be available for youngsters and ensure anyone coming into this space is made to feel welcome.
samavaya: principles of harmony in social action

action that emanate from contentment leads to stable work
saŵaŶvaLJa: principles of harmony in social action

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a lot can be achieved if we don’t care who gets the credit
samanvaya: principles of harmony in social action

the best way to coordinate is to start responding to immediate social need
samanvaya: principles of harmony in social action

its o.k. to change one’s opinion and to wear knowledge lightly
samānvaya: principles of harmony in social action

when a common good is pursued without personal agenda, people drop their differences and work together
Samanvaya: principles of harmony in social action

relationships are more important in social action than contracts
samanvaya: principles of harmony in social action

it is good to balance diversity at work; good to work with unknown as frequently as working with the comfortable zone
samanvaya: principles of harmony in social action

Doing serious work doesn’t mean, you can’t smile; have a sense of playfulness
samanvaya: principles of harmony in social action

clarity of purpose generates all the support required
Oldest definition of harmony in diversity...

_Indram mitram varunam agnim ahuh_
_Atho divyah sa suparno garutman;
_Ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti_
_Agnim yamam matarisvanam ahuh_

“They speak of (gods) Indra, Mitra, Varuna, Agni, as well as the divine bird Garutman, Yama and Matarisvan; Truth is one; sages call It by various names” – _Rig Veda_, 1.164.46
samanvaya

truth, simple, small...shaping actions for a better planet. www.samanvaya.com

Flower photos by: Ram, Music: Harmony of the Hearts, Dr. L.Subramaniam