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Title : Parallel in Ekistics & Vedic Philosophy Towards Ideal Human Settlement

Abstract

Man, since he has set foot on the earth, has always strived to maximize his potential contacts with nature, with his fellow human beings, with other works of man while expending minimum possible energy and efforts for optimization of man's protective space so that he can fulfill his aspirations for a better life without compromising with his own personal space. This thesis discusses the idea of ideal human settlements in the light of the Ekistics and the Vedic philosophies towards the common goal of welfare of mankind in totality.

The philosophy of Ekistics, since it paved way for the contemporary planning philosophies pertaining to sustainability, is extremely relevant to develop an understanding of the holistic approach required for finding solutions to solve various issues of the human settlements covered under five main categories of Ekistics elements—Nature, Man, Society, Shell, and Network. The major and fundamental goal of Ekistics is to assist and equip Man to find solutions to his problems and to find ways to be happy and feel safe within and outside the confines of his settlements by creating conditions that bring about a balance between the five elements of the human settlements, so that man can adapt easily to the requirements of settlements which will further help him to develop according to his own intentions. So, Ekistics is all about excellence in settlements' system's approach for the benefit of Man.

Similarly, the Vedic philosophy is said to address all the matters of human lives and their habitation. It solves the issues of human societies and is believed to be enshrined with a wealth of an endless knowledge, a vast sea of wisdom. It is ratifying to note that the culture that developed based on the Vedas has evolved into a vast expanse of reservoir for humane approach and humanistic culture. The Vedas, in terms of concept, structure, intention, discourse, dialogue, content and application, are extremely distinct from other religious literature available to the world. The Vedic knowledge was not just religious, in the sense of exalting the divine, but also philosophical, in the sense of asking metaphysical questions and determining the limitations of what can be known. Religion is so closely associated with philosophy that sometimes the boundaries are blurred.

The thesis aims to look back at these two theories and establish their greatness and relevance in addressing the common issues of human settlements in totality. It is an attempt to rediscover the gems that these two theories are but does not represent either of the two philosophies fully. This study, hence, looks at the philosophies of Ekistics and the Vedas parallel to each other based on an assumption that the ultimate aim of humanity remains one—saving time and energy for the well-being of mankind—though different pathways might exist and different approaches might be adopted.