

NEW EXPERIEMENT



INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL HARMONY

Dr. Surendra Pathak



The Institute of Global Harmony (IGH) is an experiment to foster a collective teaching and learning experience that will create future genera-

tions of people, who believe of their own accord in the dictum that the only way to live a life of happiness and without fear is to live in harmony with themselves, the society and the environment. In doing so, they realize full potential of their manifested form and achieve excellence in their pursuits. The IGH experiment would assist children and adults alike in their transformation through education and personal experience to a peaceful and harmonious living by seeking a permanent change in their attitudes and behavior and making commitment to peace and harmony.

The IGH is a college of higher learning that produces post graduates, grounded in human values, with three specialized skills: subject matter experts (SME's) ready to engage in their respective areas of human development to tackle challenging local problems in a manner that brings harmony among communities of people and the environment; SME's who will prepare harmony curriculums for children of all ages - from pre-school to high school students to married couples; and harmony teachers who will teach and train students of all ages to become socially sensitive and responsible citizens. The high school graduates from the

IGH may either take a vocational school training needed in the local communities or take upon under graduate studies based upon their interest and aptitudes. The post-graduates from the IGH will be sought after by the industries, governments, organizations and the institutions alike. The IGH graduates will be the model citizens of tomorrow.

The IGH envisions partnering with international organizations, including the United Nations (UN) and its affiliates, various Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), such as the Global Harmony Association (GHA), the International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP), World Constitution and Parliament Association (WCPA), Institute of World Problems (IWP) and others. Partners would include individuals and groups from different perspectives to collectively craft holistic solutions for a harmonious society leading to a peaceful and sustainable world. The crafted solutions will be adopted into teaching curriculum via many available state-of-the-art IT (Information Technology) modes. The IGH places equal regard for contributions from all disciplines of the physical and social sciences, agriculture and technology, philosophical and religious thoughts, political and economic systems, and faith and cultural traditions, all connected together as sub-systems of the same one system, called knowledge. The collective knowledge becomes wisdom if infused with human values to share and utilize the earth's resources in an equitable and responsible manner so that we leave our children a world better than we inherited from our parents. ■

INTERVIEW

DR. LAJ UTREJA
DIRECTOR- IGH

Q: What is your motivation to begin the Institute of Global Harmony?

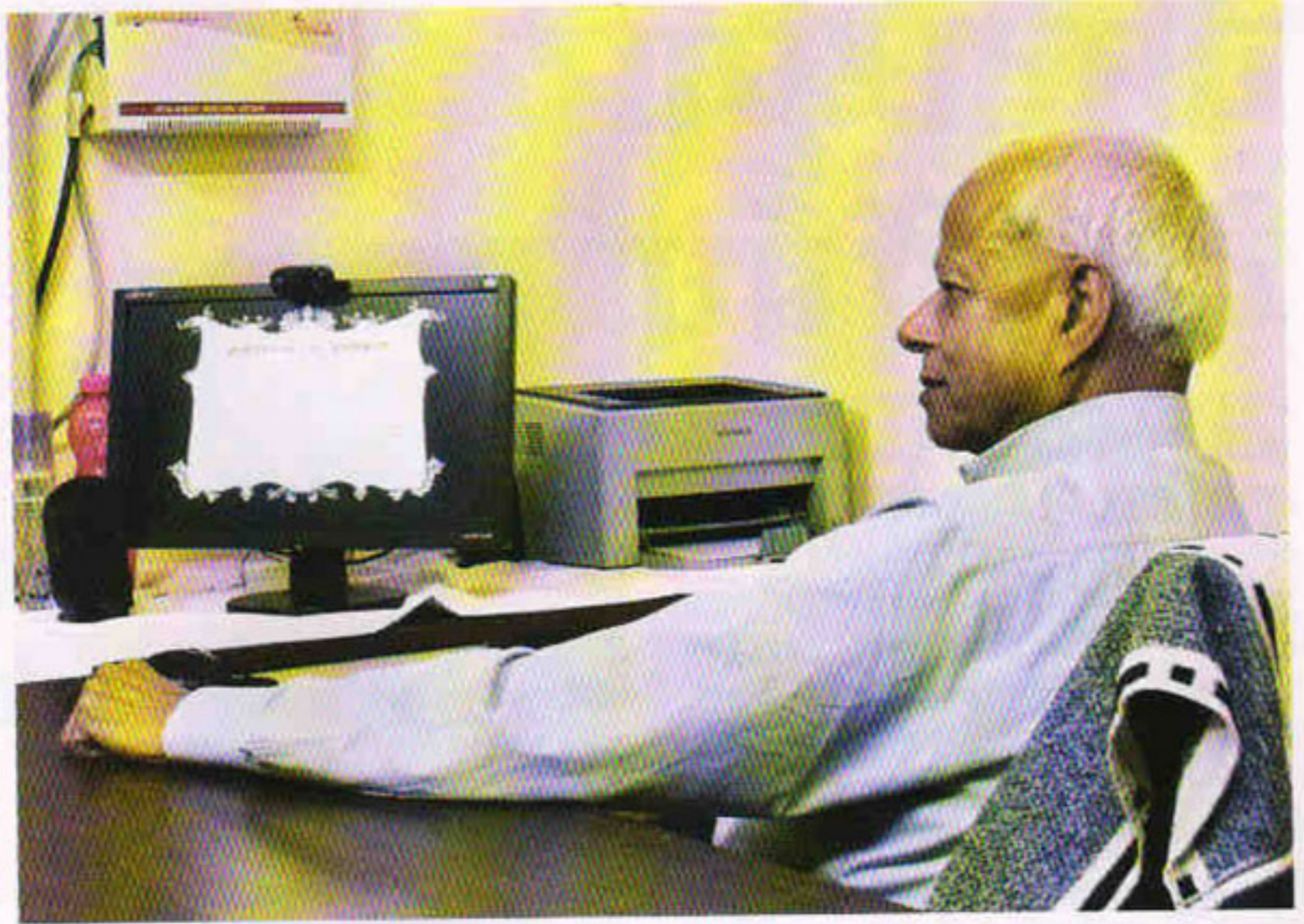
A: It does not take long for any thinking human being to observe that our human population is divided between those with means and those, who are marginalized with limited access to resources for bare necessities. Even more problematic situation is that our democratic institutions have been compromised by business and selfish interests and correspondingly have been unable to provide equal law and equal justice to all. In a harmonious society all human beings will have access to equal opportunity to pursue their endeavors of interest, and therefore it would not be difficult for political institutions to render equal law and equal justice to all.

Q: How would the Institute of Global harmony bring the required change in the society?

A: The current education system is focused on competition and therefore breeds greed and selfishness at the philosophical level. There is no attempt or provision to produce socially responsible human beings with sensitivity for fellow human beings. Our approach differs from the mainstream education at the philosophical level. We think that any pursuit that is accomplished with the cooperation of all interested and concerned individuals brings the desired results faster and better in quality. The best demonstration of this cooperation was witnessed in President Kennedy's challenge to the American people to land a man on the Moon and return him safely to the

Earth in a decade. Ordinary engineers, scientists and managers took upon the challenge, worked in cooperation to achieve excellence in every component and element that contributed to the program.

We envision producing socially responsible human beings with a sense of care and service for the fellow human being. We would introduce disciplinary programs for self-growth at all levels of education and to all segments of society. We would also institute programs that promote cooperation and a sense of responsibility to achieve excellence. We'll create an environment conducive for building self-respect and character. I know that it is a monumental undertaking, but any change must start slow and at the



OUR INSTITUTE IS AN EXPERIMENT TO PRODUCE SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE HUMAN BEINGS

grass-roots level. Also, we would take the approach that if we follow the traffic rules while driving on the road considering it as our rule and are for our safety, and not imposed by someone else, it would become easier for us to follow that rule.

Q: Are you going to teach value education as a separate subject or it will be integrated into the education curriculum?

A: Human values are an integral part of our beings. These cannot be taught, because we are born with those values. However, we need to restore those human values through education. It is the deviation from those values as we enter the real world that we cease to be who we are - caring, trusting and understanding human beings. When we allow infants and children to grow in an environment of: love and security to

build trust, discipline to discriminate between the right and the wrong, and building character to develop self-respect, they've imbibed everything that makes them a human being. The intent of the program is that these values become a part of one's behavior and attitude by the time they graduate from high school. A personality formed at that time will stay with the students for their entire lives.

Q: Wouldn't your students face a conflicting environment as they enter the real world replete with corruption and greed.

A: Our institute is an experiment to produce socially and environmentally responsible human beings. Needless to say that as they enter the real world they would face conflicting values. But, since we would institute these values at all

segments of society and at all levels of education, they would draw strength from each other. Just as every new generation becomes more proficient in the new technology than the previous generation, the emerging class of students would begin to bring small changes in their communities in which they wouldn't have to compromise their value system.

The next class of graduating students would further reinforce those values in developing cooperative programs to satisfy another class of social needs. Slowly and slowly, the program may reach other regions away from their communities until it becomes a norm. Remember, planting a good seed is important to get a good tree. Thence forward it needs tender loving care - building block of a harmonious civilization. ■