

Comprehensive Approach for Cultural Harmonization:

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Abstract

The revolutionary change in technology, particularly in transport and communication has ostensibly created a global village. Over the centuries, development paradigm has shifted from economic development to human centered development. However, ultimate goal of all development actions is to secure the place of man in this world, to build a better life for the people. How far is this goal being achieved? Are we on the track?

Despite all the development efforts, growing inequality, insecurity and the deteriorating condition of life and environment has resulted in a paradigm shift in development. Development fuses the local and global transforming social relations in line with modern orientation and producing a culture by introducing alien system of values. In the context of development, the emphasis is now on 'spiritual development' with the realization that solution for present day problems lies in our value system, in our culture and religion is the cultural representation of the society.

We all are united by a common interest, i.e. our exploration of answers to several questions in common; what is the meaning of life? What is our place in the natural world, who control our lives? We may follow different paths in this endeavour, the beliefs and practices that develop to these 'ultimate questions' may take many forms. As such our belief systems may differ from personal philosophies of life in their emphasis on the sacred, the awe-inspiring quality of the supernatural and in the collective aspect of their belief, symbols and rituals. However, what is important is that we all are guided by a common interest and that is should be a uniting factor rather than being a reason to conflict.

Dhamma (religion) provides a holistic approach for social analysis in finding solutions to immerging social concerns. It paves the way to recognize the importance of social group and their dependence upon it. Likewise religion strengthens the unity of the groups and promotes social solidarity, provides a platform for the society to come together in religious rituals, infused with drama and reverence. Together, its members express their faith in common values and beliefs. In this highly charged atmosphere of collectiveness, the integration of society is strengthened. Members of the society expresses communicate and comprehend the moral bonds which unite them. This underlines the importance of the social role of the religious leaders. The role of religious leaders has never been more important in helping to set a new direction for the human community.

Science has shaken our faith in the life-after-death and in immortality. It is our concern for the past and the future makes us callous to the suffering inflicted on the present generations and if the rich depths of eternity remain unfathomed, It is obvious that we are paying a very heavy price for our insane concern for the future generation.