

Four Regulative Principles Are Four Pillars of Harmonious Human Society

Ashis Kumar Dash

Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Siksha O Anusandhan Deemed to be University (SOADU)

Abstract

Any society, it may be a political society, social service society or any type of such group, execute their activities according to their group's principles. It performs well in long run based upon its principles. If Principles are there but not followed as it is, then such groups will come to an exit after some days or exist as a dead group. Now a day Human society performs their activities in a global platform. Globalization has reached to highest point. If we are living in relation to whole globe in all respect, then it is very important to judge what types of principles regulating this world population. If principles are not well defined and are not rightly followed, then harmony of the human society will be badly affected. In this time of globalization where we are living with a feel that this whole globe is our home but ruled by different principles for different groups, it results in fighting between different groups. Everywhere there will be imperialism and war among the groups, may be hot or cold. The Lord Krishna has given Vedas to regulate human society for peaceful existence. Four regulative principles are the products of Vedas. Iskcon is spreading and preaching the whole world to follow these four regulative principles. In this article a light has been focused on these four principles and their importance to harmonious society.

Keywords: Iskcon, harmony, globe, human society, Vedas, regulative principles, imperialism, Lord Krishna

Introduction

Human body given to a soul is a wonderful gift to the souls in this living world [1]. It is more precious than the body of a demigod [2]. Why it is said to be more precious, one should know it well and should be well understood. Every human being by nature wants to live a happy and peaceful life. To live such life, one has to follow its requirements. Living a life without following its principles, makes it hazardous. Now whole world is in the tension of a third world war. If there will be a third world war, then it would be unavoidable the use of nuclear weapons. Everyone knows the damage that human society suffers due to use of atomic weapons.

In 1966, A C Bhaktibedanta swami established Iskcon to preach the teaching of Chaitanya mahaprabhu all over the world [3][12]. Goal of this Iskcon is to educate the people to lead a life in the style as given in Bhagabat Gita. Therefore, under his leadership Hare Krishna Movement has been spread throughout the world [4]. Through this movement people are asked to chant Hare Krishna mahamantra. By chanting this mantra one will lead a happy and a peaceful life. Universal human value (UHV) can be realized through the teachings of Iskcon family [5]. The realization of universal values is possible by following four regulative principles [6][10]. In this article the effect of these four principles has been discussed.

Iskcon is trying with its all energies to establish the four pillars of human society throughout the world. The four regulative principles, the four pillars are like four diets of human society. Prabhupad goal was not to form a group belongs to him, but to establish a harmonious society in which every human being could realize the ultimate goal of life "Back to Godhead" {7}. In this movement sometimes Iskcon has to face some crises [8][11]. Iskcon during the time of bhaktibedanta swami, Prabhupad was spread with high pace. After his disappearance, there is crisis of leadership in Iskcon family [8]. Along with leadership crisis, iskcon has to face various challenges [9]. In spite of its ups and downs, it could able to reach with its teachings in the grass root level of human society.

Four regulative principles

Four regulative principles are diyuto, pani , strio and suna[1][5]. An iskcon follower is asked to follow very strictly these four principles. These principles are no gambling, no intoxication, no illicit sex and finally no killing of living beings.

Gambling is an easy way to earn success. There are two parties in a game. One will be winner another is a loser. In gambling, one gain in the cost of the losses suffered by other. Therefore it is not a right means of success. If this gambling motivation spread throughout the world, it divides whole world into two parties. One group will be successful in the cost other group's failure. There is a chance of raising enmity among the groups. Gambling is a gentle way of cheating other's right. But as a human being, one should be very much polite for the safety of other's right. That never happens in gambling. In ancient India Pandava had lost everything to Kaurava in the game of chausar. That leads to the battle of Kurukhetra. The defeated party cannot have friendly relation with successful one. This leads to lose of social harmony.

Now a day intoxication is wide spread everywhere in this world. Government is giving license for selling of intoxicate material. An intoxicated person has lost good human characters. Intoxicated person is in the mode of ignorance. Ignorance is cause of all inferiority. Intoxication on family life affects the progress of that family. An intoxicated society is nothing but a place of devils. In such a society, social harmony is a dream. Generally the young generation are more addicted to the habit of intoxication. If youth are intoxicated, think about the future of human society. It becomes a devil's society.

A human society in which illicit sex permitted is treated as animals' society. Illicit sex takes away the purity of a human being. It makes one lair and person of loose character. Illicit sex means unlawful sex relationship. For sex relation, there is institution of marriage in our society. Through marriage one gets right for sex relation. In religious book like Gita, it is given that one has sex with marriage partner only for the purpose of having children. Otherwise the sex relation is said to be illicit, even in case of ones married partner has the same conclusion. In many countries sex relations have rarely any restrictions. In those human societies family life rarely exists. Divorce cases are frequent and vast in number. In such society children are unsafe. Then how one will expect harmony in such a society!

Living beings are creation of God. Our life is precious to us. No one wants to die. Like us every other living being life is precious to that living being. Everyone wants to exist in this world as long as possible. Therefore, every living being is struggling for existence in all situations. For food one living being depends upon another living being. In Bhagabat Gita it is given that, which living being will take what type of food [1]. Everyone should be kind enough to other living being. One should not live in the cost of the life of other living being. If we kill the living being for our food, then think about those animals which are killed. One day will come when such animals are no more exist. Destroying forest

will produce various types of hazards in the globe. Some of the problems are global warming, shortage of oxygen, disturbances in weather condition etc. So killing of living beings should be strictly prohibited. One should treat them as we treat our best friend.

Gambling, intoxication, illicit sex and killing of animals are identified as sinful activities in Iskcon. Any activity against natural laws (God's laws) is treated as sinful action. Newton's third law says that every action has equal and opposite reaction. So one's action backs to him as a reaction. So if we want to free from any type of reaction, then we have to follow these four regulative principles. A person gets entry to Iskcon family if he or she is following four regulative principles or starts obeying those principles from that day only. If someone could not follow the four principles, then they are rejected from Iskcon family. One can chant Hare Krishna mahamantra only if he or she is a strict follower of these four regulative principles.

Four regulative Principles and social harmony

Social harmony couldn't be achieved in a human society without following the right principles. Today's world is in the tension of third world war. Imperialism is not abolished. Every country is trying to be more powerful than the others. Possession of nuclear weapons by every country is increasing day by day with a high pace. But does this really essential for happy and peaceful living? Surely no! We are living in a time when science and technology leads the life world around. There is no crisis in human life. Everything is available in plenty for maintenance of modern life. Science and technology has given us everything to lead a happy and peaceful life anywhere world around. We are all well educated in this globe. Still we are fighting. We couldn't avoid the possibility of a world war. If there will be a third world war, all the development will come to an end. Human life turns to a jungle life. Social harmony will completely disturb. Then what is the reason behind this? The reason is that the whole world is now moving its life under same science and technology, but not moving under the same principles. This is the time now to understand this by everyone. The four regulative principles as discussed in this article are the only solution for social harmony and peaceful living. By these four principles and by chanting of Hare Krishna mahamantra, iskcon could convert a demon to a sage. Then it is sure and certain that by following these four principles whole world population can live peacefully abolishing all the shortcomings.

Conclusion

We are suffering because we are not following the natural principles. Only by following these four regulative principles as discussed above, social harmony can be achieved. But regulating whole world by these four principles is a difficult task. It is not at all impossible. Iskcon is trying its best for the same world around. Of course it will be quite difficult to Iskcon alone. When every country's administration will come forward in co-operation with Iskcon family, it will be quite easy. Through the teachings of Bhagabat Gita, world population can be educated with these four principles. After this education no one could stay without following it. These are God's principles gifted to the human society by his grace A. C. bhaktivedanta swami, Prabhupad. After this education, universal human value can be realized and due to which there will be no question marks in social harmony.

References

1. Bhagavad-gītā As It Is, <https://vedabase.io/en/library/bg/>

2. <https://vedabase.io/en/library/sb/>
3. <https://www.iskcon.org/about-us/what-is-iskcon.php>
4. ISKCON – The Hare Krishna movement. (n.d.) Retrieved June 26, 2024 from <https://www.iskcon.org/about-us/what-is-iskcon.php>.
5. Dash A. K. (2025), Human resource development through International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research (IJFMR), 7(5) <https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2025.v07i05.59331>
6. Dash Ashis Kumar [2026] "Four Regulative Principles of ISKCON", JAAFR - JOURNAL OF ADVANCE AND FUTURE RESEARCH, ISSN:2984-889X, Vol.4, Issue 3, page no.24-27, March-2026, [:https://rjwave.org/JAAFR/papers/JAAFR2603468.pdf](https://rjwave.org/JAAFR/papers/JAAFR2603468.pdf)
7. <https://btg.krishna.com/>
8. Bansal S. (2025) International Society for Krishna Consciousne (ISKCON), Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2024 T. Shackelford (ed.), Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-38971-9_1619-1
9. Dash Ashis Kumar (2025), "Challenges in International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)", Volume 14 Issue 11, November 2025, International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR), Pages: 1529-1530, <https://dx.doi.org/10.21275/MR251121180126>
10. <https://iskcondesiretree.com/profiles/blogs/the-4-regulative-principles>
11. Dash Ashis Kumar (2025), Recent Crisis in International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Bangladesh, IJFMR, 7(6) November-December 2025. (<https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2025.v07i06.62047>)
12. Valpey, K. (2013). ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). Oxford University Press.