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Social Harmony for Being Social

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Abstract- Human beings are the most beautiful, competent and Intelligent creatures of the God. Our Epics do firm this belief that God has made men more like him so that they could reach to anything created by him in this world even him too with some efforts. These characteristics of human beings have enabled them to constantly improve themselves and their surroundings. This improvement has helped them to reach to the greater heights of development with each passing day. But alas to this, is their endless urge of self development that has posed threat to the combined development which is mainly the key to social harmony. Our society is diversified into people with many castes, colors, races and genders etc. In addition to this, personal and professional goals do differ from person to person. Societal goals further take a back seat for many in many cases. But this diversification needs to be unified to give path to the long term development. In this paper, author has tried to touch the various issues concerning social harmony and thereby finding out ways to improve social harmony among human beings.

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Social Harmony for Being Social

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I. Introduction

God made this world a beautiful place to live and sent his best creations such as human beings to live on this earth. He wanted his men to live on this place with mutual love, respect and cooperation. All the religious systems and cultures of the World whether it is Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and Muslim etc. from the day of their origin always preached for righteous relationship among the human beings to enforce peace and harmony. All the Scriptures have also been 'useful for training us in righteousness' (right relationships) and therefore relevant in identifying the foundations of a relational society. Even at present various International bodies like UNESCO, SAARC, UN, and World Bank etc. are working at their levels and positions best to promote social harmony among different nations of the World. But instead we are facing crisis of weak, unjust or broken relationships, both at the personal levels and at the levels of groups or organizations. This has affected the aim of attaining Social harmony to the Worst. In order to attain Social Harmony and to have righteous relationship, we must understand the concept of Social harmony and various Institutional roles operating underneath.

II. Social Harmony and Institutional Role

Social harmony is said to be the ultimate end result of Chinese leader Hu Jintao's signature ideology of the Scientific Development Concept. The term 'social harmony' refers to the construction of a harmonious society within the aspects of a federal or communist republic. Social Harmony is defined as a process of valuing, expressing, and promoting love, trust, admiration, peace, harmony, respect, generosity and equity upon other people in any particular society regardless of their national origin, weight, marital status, ethnicity, colour, gender, race, age and occupation etc. among other aspects. Hence Social harmony is quite essential for truly being social as being social also means living harmoniously with each other. For this purpose, we must understand the different institutions working in the society and the social relationships existing between them. These institutions can be many. Broadly we can classify them as:

1. *Family:* Family is the place where a person takes birth and is brought up. His values are largely shaped by his family environment and the values preferences of his family members especially parents.
2. *Nation and Government:* Nation is the country where a person lives in or do a job etc. National beliefs and values for one's own nation and those for other nations do influence the social harmony. The function of government is to use force to ensure civil peace, justice, equality and liberty. Hence a Government should be honest, legitimate, democratic and accountable in order to promote social harmony.
3. *Organizations:* The person may be either a businessman, a serviceman or engaged into a non profitable occupation. Whatever may be the case, his concept of having good relations with others are largely influenced by his work culture and colleagues.
4. *Community and Neighborhoods:* 'A person is known by the company he keeps' is a common say. Hence the attitudes and habits of people living in neighborhoods and community do largely influence the persons' beliefs about social harmony and peace.

World Development Report, 2003 has also discussed various kinds of social relationships and their demands in different institutions and organizations as shown in below table.

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Table 1 : Relationships, institutions and organizations

Social Relationships	Institutions		Organizations
	Rules		
	Informal	Formal	
Trust	Rules	Regulations	Nations
Networks			Family
Shared values		Laws	Civil society and business organisations
Norms			Courts
Religion	Traditions	Constitution	Police/defence Professional bodies Political parties

Source: Adapted from World Development Report, Washington DC, 2003, ch. 3.

In this table, Institutions, contains 'rules of behaviour' and hence have all sorts of functions. They reflect the society's beliefs concerning right and wrong. They also talk of the society who has the authority and power to do something about those beliefs. Institutions may change over time slowly and hence lead to long term cultural and social change. These Institutions hence are the critical factors to determine the levels of social harmony in society.

III. How to Promote Social Harmony?

The answer to this question lies in making people more social for each other. It can be done at two levels:

a) *Institutional level*

b) *Personal Level*

a) *Institutional Level:* At Institutional Level, the following intermediate goals can be followed to achieve the final goals of Social Harmony as shown in below Table:

Table 2 : Examples of the means and ends of achieving relational well-being and Social Harmony in a society

Institutions	Intermediate goals	Final goal/end
Family	- Family co-operation and welfare provision - Low divorce rates, socially sustainable birth rate - Effective family care for older members. - Gender co-operation inside and outside the family etc.	
Nations and Government	- Civil peace - Economic and political liberty - Criminal justice - Equality - Protection of human rights - Transparency in administration and execution etc.	**'Righteousness' (*tsdq*) and Harmony in all relationships** - respect for God - love/empathy - justice, fairness, parity - faithfulness - truth - forgiveness - hope - generosity - compassion.
Organizations	- Broad distribution of property assets - Integration of business and community life - Absence of persistent indebtedness - High levels of family business/self-employment - Incentives for risk-sharing and direct financial relationships - A weekly shared day off etc.	
Community and Neighborhood	- Community courts and other forms of local justice -Widespread/universal knowledge of what the law says - Offender reintegration into society after punishment. - Understanding others problems and try to sort out etc.	

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b) *Personal Level:* At personal levels, it can be done by following certain simple suggestions as discussed below:

- *Developing Empathy:* Empathy denotes a deep emotional understanding of another's feelings or problems. Emotions or feelings drive the man for right or wrong things. Hence while taking decisions for others' rights and wrongs, one should try to understand others' emotions also. If it could happen, there will be no rapes and rapists, no poor and snatchers, no pendency and corruption etc. In such a society only, Social harmony can prosper.
- *Social Grouping for Friendship:* A group consists of two or more persons having more or less same aim. Any group may be chosen by a person according to his own interest like Men's and Women club, Child Fun Centres, Social Activists Center, Neighborhood clean-up committee or friends of local business associations etc. But the aim should be to talk to others to know them better, sharing mutual goals, work for each other, understanding each other and making connections which could be counted in the times of crisis of any kind.
- *Strengthening mutually:* We all have specific talents, skills and abilities. This specificity is our strength as well as weakness too as we are good for certain things only. A group of people working together, sharing their knowledge and expertise can be a formidable force, for what fulfilling other's weaknesses. Strength lies in being together. This belief may lead to harmonious relationships for longer.
- *Acquiring Allies:* People who show trust and care for each other and use knowledge-based awareness to progress, do not need to fear. It is so because in their efforts to support the group, their own needs are ultimately met. Smaller groups may merge to become larger groups and thereby help to survive and grow each other. If we won't do so, we will be faced with threats from desperate people in near future. The people who don't have enough to survive will turn into allies for those who have more than enough to waste. These allies have to be sorted out with harmonious and righteous relationships.
- *Bridging the Gap:* The whole universe is split into duality. It is just like the choice between two opposing spirals, one ascending towards creation, and the other descending towards destruction. But the need is to bridge this gap and move people to the direction of creation only. Generally, when we consciously choose to serve others and at the same time, respect their free will to choose also, we favor the spirit of creation and the universe will also respond in harmony.

To conclude, the key to attain Social Harmony lies in being truly social. It can be done by not only understanding one's own needs and priorities but also respecting the same of others too. Then only we can construct a progressive nation which can work on the path of sustainable development.

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