

# Sem I 2020-21 : Course Summary of VEL710

## VEL710 Traditional Knowledge & Values 3-0-0

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**Objectives :** The primary objective of the course is to expose students to the social and cultural values inherent in traditional knowledge systems (TKS) available with various communities of India and to understand the contemporary significance of these values and the knowledge systems for moving towards a harmonious and sustainable global world order.

**Contents :** Some of the values inherent in these TKS are respect for all life and non-life, respect for diversity, awareness of social and ecological impact of activities, self-sufficiency, sustainability, socially appropriate, use of local natural and knowledge resources, decentralized, aesthetically pleasing, wealth distributive etc. It would be emphasized that these values are inherently present in the framework of knowledge systems and are not add-ons. Traditional Technologies which are developed as part of the TKS framework are invented and tested in the field, where all environmental and social interactions, in particular its effect on other life-forms known and unknown are allowed to play their part. This non-fragmented approach makes such knowledge holistic and avoids the errors and pitfalls when technologies are applied on the basis of incomplete or inadequate theories.

### Lectures

- Knowledge Quest in India and framework of TKS Society and polity in pre-colonial India, Analytical accuracy and antiquity of Traditional Knowledge Systems (TKS) in India
- Framework of Kisan Vidya, Karigar Vidya, Stri Vidya and Adivasi Vidya
- Values in Encounter of TKS with colonialism and modernity
- Value system of Modern Techno-Economic Paradigm Reductionism, Notions of efficiency, productivity etc)
- Metaphors of development and backwardness
- Disruption of age-old community structures and practices & Decline of Traditional Indian agriculture and industry
- Values and Methodology of TKS using specific examples
- Vision, Approach and Values inherent in TKS (Socially appropriate, Sustainable, Local resources, Decentralised, Wealth distributive, Time-tested, Aesthetically pleasing, Symbiotic etc.
- Study of Non-chemical Agriculture, Traditional Architecture, Forest Knowledge, Traditional Water Harvesting, Ayurveda, Artisanal technologies (Textiles, Architecture, Metalwork, Pottery etc.)

- Demonstration of validity of TKS (Case studies on Ayurveda, Organic farming etc.)
- Establishing the techno-economic feasibility of TKS : Directions from the work of R H Richaria, C V Seshadri, Winin Pereira, Vandana Shiva etc.
- Implementing TKS for a transition towards a sustainable and just world order.

### **Suggested Textbooks**

1. Dharampal, Indian Science and Technology in the 18th century, Other India Press, Goa, (2000)
2. Shiva Vandana, Monocultures of the Mind, Third World Network, Penang, (1995)
3. Chariar V M, Traditional Knowledge Systems of India, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, New Delhi (2017)

### **Reference Material**

1. D M Bose, S N Sen and B V Subbarayappa, A Concise History of Science in India, INSA, New Delhi, (1971)
2. S Sahasrabudhe : The Gandhian Challenge to Modern Science, Other India Press, Goa, (2002)
3. V K Datar, Charaka Samhita, Motilal Banarasidass, New Delhi, (1922)
4. P Ray, H N Gupta, M Roy, Susruta Samhita : A Scientific Synopsis, INSA, New Delhi, (1980)
5. B Dagens, Mayamatam - Treatise of Housing, Architecture and Iconography, IGNCA, New Delhi, (2000)
6. A K Saran, Traditional Thought - Towards an axiomatic approach, CIHTS, Sarnath, (1996)
7. W Pereira, Tending the Earth - Sustainable non-chemical agriculture in India, Earthcare Books, Mumbai, (1993)
8. Dharampal, The Beautiful Tree - Indigenous Indian Education in the 18th Century, Other India Press, Goa (2000)
9. Dharampal, Panchayat Raj and India's Polity, Other India Press, Goa (2000)
10. K Boven and J Morohashi, Best Practices using Indigenous Knowledge, NUFFIC-UNESCO, (2002)
11. Proceedings of Congreees on Traditional Sciences and Technologies of India, PPST Foundation
12. Various issues of PPST Bulletin, PPST Foundation, Chennai

### **Evaluation : (Out of 100 Marks)**

Assignments : 20 Marks

Minor 1 : 25 Marks

TermPaper : 20 Marks

Major : 35 Marks

### **Attendance Policy :**

In consultation with Centre's Moderation Committee, for attendance below 75 % attendance, Course Grade would be lowered by one & for attendance below 50%, Course Grade would be lowered by 2.