

## INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet aims at introducing the subject matter of my doctoral research to ISKCON devotee communities in the West who may like to be part of the research.

### Problem Identification

1 Modernism (industrialization and urbanization) has disconnected and uprooted individuals and society from land, cows, culture, tradition and spirituality.

2 As a result, Modernism is destroying three cardinal values of prime importance in the Vedic culture, namely 1) the Gift of Cows, 2) the Gift of Land and 3) the Gift of Knowledge.

### Problem Formulation

1 Modernity, with its over-fixation on materialism, has uprooted individuals and communities from land, cows, culture, and spirituality thus thwarting people's physical, mental, social and spiritual needs.

2 Unless we reestablish cows, land and knowledge as natural **GIFTS OF NATURE** not to be exploited, abused or destroyed, we will continue to face severe global social, political, economic and ecological unrest and calamities.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1 Introducing cow-based natural farming (ahimsa food/ahimsa milk), reviving traditional technologies (ahimsa cloth and other cottage industries), giving special protection to indigenous cows and introducing *panchagavya* products to help meet basic **physical needs**.

2 Re-establishing traditional education and training, both non-formal such as apprenticeship and formal such as *Gurukulas* and Varnasrama Colleges to create Acharyas and Vaidyas who will be qualified to develop traditional Vedic curriculum.

This will help meet **mental and intellectual needs**.

3 Promoting group projects, festivals, counseling services and cultural events to help meet basic **social needs**.

4 Introducing Yoga, Meditation and sadhana practices, like hearing from scriptures, to help meet basic consciousness/**spiritual needs**.

5 Reestablishing the dignity and respect to Mother Surabhi (cows), to Mother Bhumi (land), and to Mother Sarasvati (knowledge) recognizing them as natural **GIFTS OF NATURE** that are never meant to be exploited, abused, neglected or destroyed.

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1 To help remedy the neglect and sabotage of **cows**, how can the needs of individuals and the community under study be enhanced at the physical, mental, social and spiritual levels?
- 2 To help remedy the neglect and sabotage of **land**, how can the needs of individuals and the community under study be enhanced at the physical, mental, social and spiritual levels?
- 3 To help remedy the neglect and sabotage of **knowledge**, how can the needs of individuals and the community under study be enhanced at the physical, mental, social and spiritual levels?
- 4 What level of satisfaction do individuals experience in meeting their needs at the physical, mental, social and spiritual levels?
- 5 What are the similarities and differences between the communities being studied:
  - Within India (108 Villages)
  - In Foreign Countries (10 Villages)
  - Between India and Foreign Countries

## FIELD WORK IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

### For 10 Vedic Eco Villages (6 months)

Spend two weeks in each community

Weekend program introducing Best Practices

Select 10 families in each village, 4 members in each family

Conduct Selected Interviews with Village Head & Local Leaders

Conduct the Community Survey

Administer the Basic Needs Survey

Administer Bio Data Survey

Establish a Local Village Team to follow-up with specific tasks

Take Photos and Videos of the activities, people & location

### TIME & PERIOD OF VISIT

During the years 2018 to 2020, I will conduct in each community a two-weeks Fieldwork coordinated well in advance with your community.

**10 VEDIC ECO VILLAGES  
(Tentative)**

**DESIRED OUTCOME**

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>YEARS EXISTING</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>BENEFITS</b>
<b>Australia</b>	<b>New Govardhan</b>	<b>30</b>	Ahimsa Food/Ahimsa Milk/Ahimsa Cloth	Physical/Health
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>Gour Govardhan</b>	<b>20</b>	Go Krishi Sanga/Cow Care/Grazing	Physical/Social
<b>Canada</b>	<b>Saranagati Village</b>	<b>35</b>	Cow-based Organic Farming	Economy/Ecology
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>Krishna Valley</b>	<b>15</b>	Forming Local Rural Community Team	Social/Leadership
<b>India</b>	<b>Govardhan Eco Village</b>	<b>15</b>	Introducing Panchagavya Products	Physical/Health
<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>Gita Nagari Baru</b>	<b>17</b>	Adopting Yoga/Basic Spiritual Practices	Health/Spiritual
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>Krishna Island</b>	<b>25</b>	Gurukula & Varnasrama College	Mental/Intellectual
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>New Chandrodaya</b>	<b>25</b>	We can gradually introduce or expend upon all the above activities within every rural community under study and beyond.	
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>Mother Farm</b>	<b>10</b>	Our objective is to make our rural projects as models of ideal sustainable and self-sufficient Vaisnava communities as so much desired by our ISKCON Founder-Acharya, His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada. Thank you!	
<b>USA</b>	<b>New Talavan</b>	<b>40</b>		

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research will combine methods of Research Development, Action Research and Ethnographic Research covering both the qualitative and quantitative approach.

I will use the Interview Schedule method to extract the main data from the selected population.

I will also make use of open-end interviews, observations, photography and video to document my material in each project.

## **REQUEST**

If your community is interested to be part of this survey, kindly let me know so we can work out the logistics such as appropriate time, schedule, families selected, etc.

For More Information

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[www.vedicecovillage.ca](http://www.vedicecovillage.ca)

# Vaisnava Vedic Sociology

## **MODERNITY**

**and the**

## **DESECRATION OF VALUES**

# Doctoral Research

**Ph.D. Proposal with the Department of Sociology**

**Osmania University – India**

**Researcher**

**Real Lionel Joseph Gagnon, B.A., M.Ed.**

**BHAKTI RAGHAVA SWAMI**