



MONTHLY REPORT

INTEGRAL HUMANISM INITIATIVE CENTRE FOR HUMAN SCIENCES (RISHIHOOD UNIVERSITY)



**SUPPORTED BY:
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Executive Summary

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT August 2023

Major Activities of this Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Round table report submitted. ➤ Two interns started to work in the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rajat Pratap: Working on Panchayati raj institution in relation to Integral Humanism. ○ Mayuresh Tripathi: Preparing a comprehensive database related to Integral Humanism. ➤ The second phase of book order placed. ➤ Research paper presentations on the basis of field studies have been accepted in Indian Political Science Association Conference. ➤ Short-term project has been selected in ICSSR. ➤ Field visit reports completed.
Academic interaction sessions	05
Publications/ Presentations	01 blog
Next Month Task (September 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thematic book preparation ➤ Thematic seminars by eminent speakers. ➤ Winter school schedule

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Completion of initial requirements as per Khol-Khel for games creation➤ Creating draft for the book "Intellectual biography of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya"
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Academic Interactions

Session by Aman Surekha on “Introspection through Games”

Date: 8th August 2023

On August 8th, 2023, a workshop called "KHOL KHEL" delved into the intricate ecosystem of games, exploring their designs. The concept of gamification was discussed through theories such as the hero's journey, rewards, acknowledgement, and hierarchy. It was emphasized that embedding these elements effectively can create gamified experiences. The workshop identified human weaknesses like desire, anger, attachment, greed, arrogance, and delusion, and showcased the creation of a game based on social taxation, transforming into the popular "Monopoly" with the addition of elements like jail. One intriguing discovery was the game "Senet," with thirty squares, invented by a French individual in Pondicherry. This led to a discussion on games as a medium for conveying messages and teaching life lessons, exemplified by the story of Ghatotkach in the Mahabharata. During interactive segments, the audience explored the motives behind playing, learning, and working. The workshop aimed to bridge individual and collective goals within the gaming experience, questioning whether games can reshape our collaborative tendencies. A parallel was drawn between the concept of Sarp-raju, where knowledge distinguishes

Key Points:

- The workshop encouraged participants to not just for winning but for fostering collaboration.
- The workshop urged attendees to explore the alignment between personal introspection and experiential learning in games, emphasizing the potential of games to teach lessons and shape behaviours.

between snake and rope, and the potential of games to reveal hidden insights.



Discussion on MOU for Game Designing Collaboration

Date: 8th August 2023

During the meeting with Aman Surekha ji, the focus was on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Khol Khel and Rishihood University, marking their collaboration in game designing. Several key points were discussed in detail. The initial emphasis was on finalizing the game design concept prior to manufacturing, with a stipulated minimum manufacturing quantity of 1500 units to ensure viability and minimize losses. To optimize costs, the possibility of using cardboard instead of more expensive wooden blocks was explored. Both parties concurred that any developed content must not be sold to external entities without mutual agreement. The distribution strategy involved allocating 15-20 units for research purposes and 50-100 units for the market, with each kit priced at INR 700 (excluding GST) to cover production expenses.

Notably, the nature of the collaboration, as outlined in the MOU, underlined its collective focus on game development rather than a transactional or fee-based arrangement.

Conversations revolved around an inventive electronic game concept wherein challenges would be introduced by a scanner following activity completion, enhancing player engagement. Another idea put forth was the identification of a "mahavakya" (grand statement) to encapsulate holistic perspectives for players.

Key Points:

-Innovative Electronic Game:
Scanner-based challenges after activities for dynamic engagement.

-"Mahavakya" & Deendayal Upadhyaya's 9 milestones for holistic approach, QR code blogs for deeper context.



To enrich the holistic approach of the game, nine pivotal milestones from Deendayal Upadhyaya's life were pinpointed. These milestones aimed to provide players with a comprehensive and well-rounded viewpoint. Additionally, to enhance the player experience, the suggestion was made to create 36 QR code-accessible blogs. These blogs would furnish supplementary context and insights for players to delve into, further enriching their interaction with the game.

Abstracts of Research papers

1. Integrating Sustainable Development Goals through Community Development: A Case Study in Dodda Madhurai and Chittrakoot

-Anusree S.L.

Abstract: This paper explores the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grassroots level in India. It specifically examines the efforts of community development persons in Chittrakoot (Samaj Shilpi Dampati) and Dodda Madhurai, Karnataka (Swagram mitra). The study will be based on the data collected during the field visit to the above-mentioned places as a part of the Integral Humanism project at the Centre for Human Sciences, Rishihood University, Sonipat. The study is in alignment with India's political vision of Integral Humanism, emphasizing the Government of India's recognition of the significance of sustainable development goals.

Understanding ground-level activities in Indian villages is essential before pursuing nationwide SDG achievements. Mahatma Gandhi famously stated that India's soul resides in its villages. Efforts to establish SDGs are being made at the Panchayat level. It is crucial to assess villagers' awareness and the ultimate objectives of SDG implementation in rural communities. This study aims to address fundamental questions surrounding SDGs' establishment in villages and raise awareness among villagers about these goals. By focusing on community development, the values of mutual interdependence and self-reliance are emphasized as critical pillars for attaining the 17 SDGs at the grassroots level. Integral Humanism, a concept proposed by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhaya, forms the basis for achieving SDGs and promoting sustainable development.

Through a comprehensive field study in Dodda Madhurai and Chittrakoot, this research analyzes how community development initiatives have been instrumental in fostering the values required for achieving the SDGs. By recognizing and leveraging these core principles, this study seeks to contribute to the effective implementation of SDGs and drive sustainable development practices in Indian villages. The findings from this research are expected to aid policymakers and stakeholders in formulating strategies that can lead to holistic and inclusive development, addressing the critical needs of the most vulnerable communities.

2. Integrating Integral Humanism into Indian Political Thinking: Overcoming Challenges and Building a Unified Nation-State

-Riya Vardhan Saxena

Abstract: The Indian vision on political thinking embraces Integral Humanism as an ideology for governance. However, the lack of a concrete blueprint poses a significant challenge in implementing this holistic approach. This paper delves into the historical context, emphasizing the limited time Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya had to develop a comprehensive philosophy and the notion that India lacked originality in applying indigenous principles. It explores the relevance of Integral Humanism in the current political system, emphasizing the need for greater institution building. The study has realized data from the Integral Humanism Initiative project currently running at Centre for Human Sciences, Rishihood University, Sonipat.

The paper draws a contrast between Indian and Western philosophical approaches, underlining the comprehensive outlook of Indian thinkers compared to the city-based political philosophy in Europe. Furthermore, it discusses the significance of distinguishing the nation and the state as separate entities to achieve a breakthrough in Integral Humanism's integration. The confusion surrounding national identity without state identity or citizenship is addressed, advocating for a careful investigation and suitable amendments to the Indian constitution.

The paper concludes by proposing two or three key issues for institution building, focusing on resolving the nation versus national state question to foster a unified and all-encompassing Indian political thinking. Through these insights, the paper aims to offer pathways for overcoming challenges and integrating Integral Humanism into India's political landscape, building a cohesive and unified nation-state.

3. Recognizing and Developing 'Chitti': A Pathway to Cultural Revivalism via Integral Humanism

-Akhil Kumar Singh

Abstract: In an era characterised by uniformity, the need for cultural revivalism has never been more urgent. This study provides a compelling way to address this call: the concept of 'Chitti', as envisioned in Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's Integral Humanism. 'Chitti,' or the 'soul of the nation,' symbolises an indelible, essential identity that creates a nation or culture.

The study posits that in order to properly understand this national 'Chitti,' one must first recognise and comprehend the plethora of smaller, localised 'Chittis' that exist inside communities and villages. This strategy enables for a bottom-up understanding of the nation's essence, founded in the realities of its people. The identification of basic concepts or practises that connect these communities together, generating a collective ethos that encourages members to preserve their distinct cultural identities, is critical to this process.

Recent field studies in Bangalore village and Chittrakoot as part of the Integral Humanism Initiative project, where religious and cultural activities were found to effectively acknowledge, develop, and enhance the local 'Chitti,' lend empirical credence to this concept. These activities, in turn, have sparked cultural revivalism in these areas.

By emphasising the importance of recognising and cultivating 'Chitti,' this study proposes that such an approach can be a strong catalyst for a broader cultural resurgence, showing a route towards a future in which cultural diversity is not just conserved, but embraced.

Executive Summaries of Field Study Reports

1. Pondicherry Field Study Report by Riya Vardhan Saxena

Our field visit to Pondicherry aimed to delve into the practical aspects of Integral Humanism, by closely examining its implementation in educational settings. The field visit report presents a comprehensive overview of our experiences and insights gained from visiting Auroville and the Ashram School. At Auroville, we were immersed in an environment that epitomizes Integral Education. Auroville's ethos of belonging to all of humanity rather than any individual resonates with the principle of collective growth. The emphasis on serving the Divine consciousness underscores a continuous journey towards progress. Integral education, as practiced here, nurtures love, knowledge, power, and beauty in a harmonious blend. Matrimandir, located in Auroville, Pondicherry, stands as an architectural marvel and a symbol of spiritual aspiration. Designed to embody the essence of human unity and the pursuit of inner transformation, Matrimandir holds a special place within the context of Integral Humanism, a philosophy that seeks to harmonize material and spiritual dimensions of life. This iconic structure not only serves as a physical monument but also represents the philosophical underpinnings of Auroville's vision and the ideals of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. As a serene sanctuary for contemplation and self-discovery, Matrimandir encapsulates the very essence of Integral Education and Humanism in practice. Savitri Bhavan stands as a testament to Sri Aurobindo's teachings and vision. It serves as a hub for spiritual education based on his epic poem "Savitri," offering insights into integral spiritual practices. This centre aspires to foster human unity by disseminating the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, contributing to a deeper understanding of Integral Education. The Ashram School, founded in 1945, challenges traditional education paradigms. It prioritizes holistic development, offering a diverse curriculum that includes sports, vocational training, and creative arts. By focusing on physical fitness, creativity, and intellectual growth, the school cultivates a balanced and harmonious approach to education. The Last School's approach revolves around freedom in learning. It encourages students to embrace self-directed progress and psychological growth. Rejecting conventional grading systems, the school creates a space where students and teachers engage in meaningful dialogue, fostering individuality and self-confidence. Solitude Farm Café exemplifies sustainability and mindful consumption. By offering farm-to-plate local food, the café celebrates the

nutritional diversity of the region while minimizing its carbon footprint. The accompanying seed bank reinforces the importance of preserving and sharing natural resources. Awareness through Body (ATB) emerges as a unique method to enhance self-awareness and concentration. Integrated into Auroville's curriculum, ATB fosters a dialogue-based learning approach, emphasizing the importance of leading and following. It aims to explore the inner self, facilitating a deeper connection with one's identity.

This Field visit provided valuable insights into the practical implementation of Integral Education. The experiences at Auroville and the Ashram School underscored the significance of holistic development, creativity, sustainability, and self-awareness in education. These real-world examples of Integral Humanism in action will undoubtedly enrich our project's understanding and contribute to the broader discourse on holistic education.

2. Bangalore Field Study Report by Anusree S.L.

Our field visit to Bengaluru and Doddamadhure from June 28 to July 1, 2023, marked a crucial step in delving into the socio-economic landscape of education and self-reliance within a Karnataka village. This endeavour was a part of the "My Village-My Pride" program, a collaborative initiative led by a consortium of partners including Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (KSRDPRU), Youth for Seva, Chanakya University, and Abdul Nazeer Sab Chair of Kuvempu University. The objective was to grasp the essence of this initiative, aligned with Integral Humanism, that focuses on fostering self-reliance and sustainable development within villages.

The visit comprised two significant locations: Centre for Education and Social Sciences (CESS) at Chanakya University, where a round table discussion on the Swagramamitra Fellowship was held, and Doddamadhure Village, where extensive field study and ethnographic exploration took place. We also had the privilege of attending a session on "Indian Economy" by Bibek Debroy, organized by Chanakya University.

This exploration aimed to deepen our understanding of how education and self-reliance intertwine in rural settings, specifically through the lens of the "My Village-My Pride" initiative. This initiative, launched as part of the 75th anniversary of India's independence under the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," resonates with the ethos of India's freedom struggle rooted in ancient values. The

movement to reclaim India's identity provided a blueprint for liberation and reconstruction, and the quest for self-discovery has long been a pivotal element of Indian history.

The "Swagrama Fellowship - My Village, My Pride" initiative, a collaboration between KSRDPRU, Youth for Seva, Chanakya University, and Abdul Nazeer Sab Chair at Kuvempu University, is a three-year endeavour encompassing seventy-five carefully selected villages in Karnataka. The initiative's core objectives revolve around building indigenous approaches to rural development and tailoring interventions to each village's unique cultural context.

Key insights emerged from the field visit, highlighting the initiative's efficacy and importance:

- Village Rituals as Unifying Visions: Rituals serve as a cohesive force, uniting the community under shared visions.
- Village Self-Reliance: Contrary to external dependence, villages can thrive by self-sustaining core functions.
- Need-Centric Interventions: Targeting interventions to specific village needs fosters community involvement.
- Villagers as Change Agents: Village transformation is driven by the villagers themselves.
- Guided by Purushartha: The initiative aligns with the four pillars of human endeavor.
- Grassroot Approach: The grassroots approach underpins the initiative's philosophy.

Our visit provided profound insights into the transformation catalysed by the Swagrama Fellowship - My Village, My Pride initiative. The focus on cultural context, self-reliance, and community engagement resonated in the revitalization of these villages. The visit reinforced the importance of an indigenous approach tailored to each community's distinct needs, thereby nurturing sustainable and inclusive rural development. As we reflect on our journey, it's clear that initiatives like these have the potential to shape the future of rural India, aligning with the principles of Integral Humanism and fostering a harmonious coexistence between progress and values.

3. Chitrakoot Field Study Report by Akhil Kumar Singh

The field study conducted at the Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) in Chitrakoot offers a unique and unparalleled opportunity to delve into the practical application of integral humanism philosophy, as envisioned by the eminent thinker Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, within the realm of rural development. This endeavor provides a comprehensive examination of the actualization of Upadhyaya's principles in a real-world setting, shedding light on the intricate interplay between theoretical frameworks and on-ground implementation. Through this immersive experience, we aim to unravel the dynamics that shape the integration of integral humanism values with community development, thereby contributing to a deeper understanding of how these principles can foster sustainable and holistic progress within rural communities. By critically analyzing the initiatives, methodologies, and outcomes at DRI Chitrakoot, this field study endeavors to illuminate the potential of Upadhyaya's philosophy as a driving force behind transformative and people-centric development models.

Objectives:

The study was driven by the following key objectives:

1. **Examine Integral Humanism Principles:** The foremost aim was to delve deeply into the integral humanism philosophy and its applicability within the context of rural development. This involved a thorough exploration of the principles put forth by Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya to ascertain their feasibility and effectiveness in fostering various facets of community well-being.
2. **Assess Rural Development Strategies:** The study sought to evaluate the practical implementation of integral humanism values in ongoing rural development initiatives. By examining the strategies, programs, and projects carried out at DRI Chitrakoot, the objective was to gauge the extent to which these endeavours aligned with the foundational principles of integral humanism.
3. **Uncover Self-Reliance and Community Empowerment:** An essential objective was to uncover how the integration of integral humanism values contributed to the cultivation of self-reliance and empowerment within the rural community. This involved analysing the extent to which the initiatives promoted self-sufficiency, local leadership, and the active participation of community members.

Methodology:

The study employed a qualitative approach, including interviews, observations, and document analysis. Participants comprised community members, local leaders, and subject matter experts.

Key Findings:

1. **Holistic Development:** The philosophy of integral humanism was translated into a comprehensive development approach encompassing physical, intellectual, spiritual, and social aspects.
2. **Community Empowerment:** Community-driven initiatives were found to lead to greater empowerment and self-reliance.
3. **Sustainable Practices:** Integration of traditional wisdom in agriculture and healthcare showcased how indigenous knowledge systems can contribute to sustainable rural development.
4. **Cultural Preservation:** Initiatives such as museums and Gurukuls were instrumental in preserving local culture and identity.
5. **Innovative Education Models:** The study highlighted unique educational models fostering comprehensive human development.

IHI Team Updates

1. New Interns Joined the team:

- I. **Rajat Pratap Singh** is a graduate in History (Honors) from Hansraj College, University of Delhi. His fields of interest are philosophy, religion, civilizational studies, political theory, and comparative politics. He often employs the lens of decoloniality to understand and challenge the conventional wisdom of the modern world. Under the 'Integral Humanism Initiative', he is working with the same spirit. Using the ideas of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Sri Aurobindo, he aims to scrutinize the general structure of post-independence Indian Polity with a special emphasis on Panchayat Raj. Village Assemblies had long been considered fundamental units of Indian socio-political structures. These were also the representative institutions of a self-reliant and self-sustaining society. To what extent does the modern Panchayati Raj system adopted by India fulfil this objective, and how, taking cue from Integral Humanism, can the modern structure be improved further is the key focus of his research during this two-month internship. Rajat aspires to build a future in academia and become a historian and political theorist.



Updates:

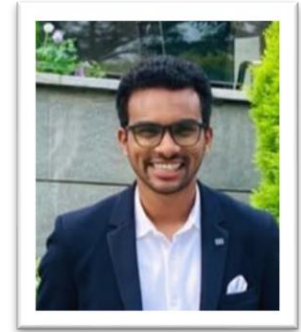
One blog published: [Mindful Gamification and Mental Well-being | Rishihood University's Blog | Centre for Human Sciences](#)

- II. **Mayuresh Kumar Tripathi** recently completed Post-Graduate Diploma in Public Leadership and interested in the areas of public policies. In the Integral Humanism Initiative he is applying his analytical expertise to compile a comprehensive compendium that captures the multifaceted contributions of Shri Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, including his works, research, and institutional legacies.



2. New Research Associate Joined the Team

In the current month, we opened recruitment for a vacant Research Associate position. We received an array of applications, exceeding a count of ten, from individuals with diverse educational backgrounds. These ranged from master's degrees in social sciences to doctorates, including candidates from reputable institutions like Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University (DU), and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). This robust applicant pool underscores the project's strength and viability. Notably, several candidates who are already employed elsewhere expressed interest solely due to the project's objectives. Following rigorous rounds of interviews, we are pleased to announce the selection of Rithin Miriyala. He will commence his role with the project starting September 1. Rithin holds an M.A. in Public Policy from Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bangalore. Additionally, he possesses a background in both mathematics and computer science.



Thank You



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