

Second Generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks,

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Re-Published from Vedic Light June 2004

INTRODUCTION:

Who are the ‘First Generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks’?

The advent of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati on Indian Socio-religio-political seen during British Empire brought a successful movement into the main stream of Indian life. Indians started migrating to various countries of the world and took the flag of newly revitalized Vedic Dharma and established many Arya Samaj organizations in those countries. Arya Samaj took roots in these countries that improved self esteem and self respect. This movement is still present in India. The arousal of collective social consciousness by Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati and subsequently by his followers lead to India’s Independence. About eighty percent of those who participated in India’s struggle for independence were influenced one way or the other by the teachings of Arya Samaj, as documented by great Indian historian Pannikar. This great historical change in Hindu society was achieved by the first generation Arya Samaj and Updeshaks.

Much needed socio-religious task is yet to be accomplished by the First Generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks. Several years ago on my visit to India, I found a social change. I surveyed about 30 families of Delhi, these are prosperous families and have lots of money; in amenities they surpass the prosperity of any upper middle class family of the USA. These Indian –Hindu families have many domestic servants that do cooking, washing utensils, cleaning and other house hold chores. Usually orthodox Hindus have boycotted faithful Hindus who are called low caste or untouchables. Free India gave a free hand to Christians to convert Hindus particularly in rural and backward areas. The innocuous but deceptive practices of Christian missionaries, that now numbers in Lacks/hundreds of thousands, are currently engaged in converting poor and innocent Hindus of down trodden areas of cities particularly Juggi and Zopadis, and making a claim that accepting Jesus as their savior/messiah ‘fulfills’ Hindu’s faith. These Christian missionaries are supported financially by foreign contributions particularly from the western countries. They call their priest as Pundit who also wears orange robes just as their Hindu counterpart – just like ‘Hindu Sanyasi’. These Christian missionaries encourage these converts

to keep their Hindu names but give them new last name depending on their denominations. These Christian Missionaries also provide health care particularly in various Hindu Melas and big festivals such as Kumbh Mela and then advertise their, health dispensary in western news media and boast that so many doctors and nurses from this and that church organized health services for poor people in India and treated so many thousands of people free. Thus undermining all other Hindu organization's free health care efforts and also by the local Governments free arrangements at these national festivals /Melas of India. These Christian missionaries project a very poor image of India's health care. To show the west, 'basically there is no health care system in India and people are dying due to lack of any effective health care'. These deceptive presentations by Christian missionaries make look in the eyes of any common person of the west, 'India is in very miserable state without any effective health care'. Thus these missionaries create a shameful atmosphere, by denigrating the people of India. These missionaries then collect money from common secular people from western society for furthering their cause of conversion. This way Churches generate huge amounts of money for the name of social services. These Christian missionaries then use this money to convert new people into Christianity. This is the way all Christians do and also get grants from their national government in this respect. This is how money was collected for 'Mother Teresa'. How come the western media portrayed her as a saint for these practices? Did west award her Noble prize for these dishonest and misleading practices? However, the case may be, Pope bestowed her sainthood posthumously to spread Christianity in Indian sub continent.

When a church in USA sponsors young teen-agers to work in certain remote areas of India, then these youngsters are picked up at Delhi airport by a USA embassy personal. The writer of this article has himself witnessed this scenario and can testify in this regard, when in 1987 a seventeen year old white girl, a high school student who happened to be from Atlanta Georgia USA, traveled in the same plane with my self and my children. During conversation she told that 'she is going to work for a church in Bihar and USA embassy personnel will pick her up at the Delhi airport'. Fortunately I did witness as soon as the visa clearance formalities are completed the USA embassy personnel came in side and took her out even without any custom clearance. We had to wait in line while she and the USA embassy personnel walked through without being checked by customs. Now one can imagine who are covertly helping the conversion, our custom department is also an accessory to the crime of conversion. It is not an isolated case but routinely

western governments whole heartedly cooperate in this conversion process through their embassies. Western Governments have ulterior motives –if India becomes Christian country then western countries have one more dependable friendly ally in the world.

At times under the guise of teaching new profession/skills these Christian missionaries develop empathy and gradually bring these innocent Hindu people into Christian fold. Health care is mostly free in India and is usually provided by Government Hospitals. In rural and tribal areas these Christian missionaries tell tribes and villagers that Jesus is Ram. Thus accepting Jesus you are automatically accepted by Ram. Many new churches sprung up in these villages, and many are converted in Christianity. The main motto is to make a new church in each and every village even if there is no Christian because Hindus are there and convert them to Christianity. Christian religion is most organized religion in the world, and uses the Indian and State government's welfare programs for the benefit of these converts. In fact these programs were designed for backward and scheduled castes and tribes Hindus to uplift them. These deceptive proselytizing techniques are tantamount to coerced conversions and need to be stopped and condemned. Alas! The cost of these welfare programs was paid by an ordinary common Hindu person in the form of taxes which state and central/federal government collects.

A vast network of these churches help plan dummy agencies that look secular on the face but promote Christianity and conversion. Those Hindus who are converted into Christianity are placed by these companies as domestic servants in to the houses of those so called 'liberated Hindus' -including some whose grand fathers/grand mothers were of Arya Samaj background and/or were taught in Arya Samaj schools. *These Hindu house holders were so liberated that their daughters /sons were never taught Vedic philosophy, their son-in-laws/daughter-in-laws were never ever been exposed to Arya Samaj, nevertheless, these Hindus call themselves as 'liberated Hindus'.*

The end result was complete ignorance about Vedic Dharma at these elite educated Hindu homes, however, these so called 'liberated Hindus of today' are prosperous and have multiple domestic servants. These servants come from rural and tribal areas and were placed by the company who has subtle connections with these Christian organizations. Thus those Hindus that were looked down by these very orthodox or

‘liberated Hindus’, but once converted into Christianity and placed into their houses as ‘Pseudo Hindus’ by the well organized Christian missionary related companies are now become ‘well accepted’. This was a change that I encountered.

Initially if these same low caste Hindus wanted to work as domestic servants at these ‘liberated Hindu house holds’, they would be denied. What a miracle accomplished by these Christian missionaries? These Christian missionaries were so successful and able to sell new wine in old bottle! The names of these people are of Hindu origin, but if some one ask what is their last name they will tell Philips, Mary, smith, John, and so on. The task of these first generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks is to go to these backward areas of cities, villages, and assimilate these Hindu faithful. These low castes, no caste, backward class or caste less Hindus are waiting to be embraced and hugged physically by greater Hindu society. Teach these untouchables/Dalits about Vedic Dharma, make prayer halls for them, teach some skills through workshops and bring them in to main fold of Hindu Dharma. Make them priests, so these priests can work in these communities and prepare more Pujaries and pundits amongst themselves. This will bring coercive conversion by Christian missionaries to halt. Thus, they can also be placed as domestic workers. The survey I conducted in 50 families of Delhi, 10 % of them told me their last name of Christian names and proudly stated to have become Christian and talk of their different denominations. Does any one know what is the national census is for Christians? 10% of the population is of Christians! Does this statement open the eyes of any educated liberated Hindu in general and Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks in particular?

Arya Samaj is to send her workers and volunteers into houses and neighborhoods, Juggi and Zopadis, rural and tribal areas, Nagar-Vasi and Van-Vasi homes, to teach them what is Vedic Dharma? Make amongst them new preachers, pujaris and pundits, open new Arya Samajes and prepare full time paid just as Christian missionaries do, so they may undertake all kinds of Sacraments/ Sanskars, worship services, and bring back those souls who are lost. This will certainly put a dent in the covert and overt proselytization and will bring the Hindu brothers and sisters to common Vedic Sanatan Hindu fold who have gone astray. Teach them new skills such as of construction, mechanical, domestic work such as art of cooking, tailoring, lathering and carpentry etc., to help make their lively hood and then place them as domestic or other semi skilled workers. **These faithful Hindus so**

called ‘low castes’ are in deed real faithful who maintained their traditions of’ Hindu Heritage’ till to day even facing the treacherous times of history. These simple minded but neglected illiterates who maintained their Hindu faith can make successful transition, while serving and making their cherished dreams come true and become respectable human beings, then and then the real goal of ‘First Generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks’ of ‘making better human beings’, or ‘Kirnvanto Vashyamyam’ can be fulfilled.

The task of these first generation Arya Samaj followers has been to uplift the lives of fellow humans. Since India’s independence has been achieved the focus now needs to be shifted away from being ‘anti English’ to promote Bhartya and non Bhartya languages and their literature, such as Dutch, French, German, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese etc. In modern world the number of Spanish speaking countries comes second to the English speaking countries. Rather than spending their energies in opposing the English language the first generation Arya Samaj and Updeshaks to prepare themselves to accept English as an International language. By virtue of accepting English language as a mean of open international language many of Arya Samaj people of India transplanted in Australia, Fiji, Canada, Caribbean countries, Singapore, and the USA etc. and have successfully established Arya Samaj in these countries. These very people are now trying to spread the teachings of Swami Dayananda Saraswati and Arya Samaj through the English language. Therefore, much work is needed to be done in modern and simple to understand but authentic translation of Veda, Upnishad, Shad Darshan and many Arsh Granths in English, including but not limited to Satyarth Prakash, Rigvedadi -Bhasyabhumika etc. Similarly multiple web-sites to reach masses have to be undertaken so any one can load down all or any of these Arsha scriptures and can get true knowledge without any distortion. There are many dedicated individuals are working in this direction to achieve these goals. I am looking to have a collective effort in this direction, this collective efforts to improve society is called Yajnya. In this Yajnya the central body of Arya Samaj and many others join hands to undertake this mammoth Yajnya to invigorate the whole Hindu society. This is the purpose of this article. Hope-fully these first generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks and Updeshaks can take lead in this Yajnya –the much needed task. In deed it is the call of the time!

Second Generation Arsh Pracharaks and Updeshaks:

After independence of India, due to the educational emphasis by reform movement of Arya Samaj, Indian Government undertook an extra ordinary step in the field of education. As a result of which many intellectuals and professionals were produced. Indian nationalists educated their children through these educational Institutions. These free born educated Indians wanted to explore the world. Thus many of these adventurers settled in the English speaking western dominated countries such as Australia, Canada, USA, New Zealand etc.

In these countries these Indian elites got established. These intellectuals, adventurers and brave risk takers started feeling home sick, so they arranged their extended family members to migrate to these countries. Thus to keep their culture many traditional Hindu Temples sprang in these western countries.

Changing times need new breed of Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks. There is a dearth of preachers, priests and propagators of Vedic Dharma in the west. Many do not know what is Vedic Dharma? Many are ignorant about their own religious basic understandings, many are unaware about pristine Vedic philosophy, and many more do not even know what Dharma is!

This void is fulfilled by many western scholars who have fixed and distorted notions about Hindu Dharma. Many of these western scholars are ignorant and many impose their own personal biases about the Vedic Dharma, and offer distorted views in their teachings, writings, and also while educating others. This is a real disgrace for Hindus. Even Arya Samaj preachers who are mostly non existent, cannot speak in English because the idea what was English during hay days of Arya Samaj was considered foreign and what was foreign has to be avoided, thus the Arya Samaj never produced and Updeshaks in any foreign language including English. Arya Samaj was the liberating movement, therefore shunned whatever was English including the language. Thus English was never liked in Arya Samaj circles. Unfortunately it is still true till today and one can see many articles in ‘Hindi Arya Samaj magazines’ that writes ‘boycott English language’.

Time has changed. English has become an international language. In the world it is the number one language that is used by almost all countries of the world including Arabian, Persian, Eastern, and Western hemispheric

countries that speak Spanish, French, German and many European languages. English has become main language of media, education, commerce, tourism, political, social, and religious exchanges between all countries and all the people of the world.

Now, the time has come that the followers of Arya Samaj have to undertake the task of preparing English speaking Pracharaks and Updeshaks, just to spread the teaching and preaching of pristine and pure Vedic Dharma, and to enlighten all Hindus and non Hindus of the world alike. Many Hindus and non Hindus are anticipating this kind of guidance for their new generation of youngsters who only speak English. These Hindu children are born and brought up in English speaking countries their mother tongue for all practical purpose has become English. These children play with their classmates who speak only English go to market where only English is spoken, see Cinema or television that also use English. Every interaction of life is communicated in English. Therefore, from the people's movement called Arya Samaj, English speaking and Updeshaks are anticipated to keep the Vedic roots in their minds. Thus this kind of work can only be propagated by the Second generation –‘English speaking and Updeshaks’ who can effectively spread Vedic Dharma in far away lands.

The horizon of Second generation English speaking Pracharaks and Updeshaks is vast, the work arena is completely open, and there is no competition. All these energetic people march ahead and prove themselves as the Rigvedic Mantra 1.164.46. states ‘Indram Vardhanto Krinvanto Vishvamyam. Apaghnanto aravanah’.

Pandita Indrani Ramprasad PhD., First Vedic Hindu Pandita / Vidushi of Trinidad & Tobago, and Journalist from New York, New York USA states:

I read your proposal. You have done much work in analyzing the situation. As a person born and bred in the western world - I am 4th generation born in these parts - and having spent many years in Bharat - my beloved ancestral country - I have following perspectives on some of the issues that you brought up:

Firstly, we need locally born persons to take up the task of being Vedic ‘Second Generation Arsh, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars. ‘Second Generation Arsh, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars from India’ have an important role to play. In fact it was these Indian ‘Second

Generation Arsh , Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars, that lit the fire of Arya Samaj in the Caribbean countries, and then these very people after migrating to USA lit the fire in America.

It is worthwhile to train Indian ‘Second Generation Arsh Pracharaks, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars in Indian Gurukuls. But it is more useful to get local people in America and the Caribbean to be trained to become ‘Second Generation Arsh Pracharaks, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars’. Both groups of people need to work together.

I have long suggested that we take some children from the Caribbean and America and send them to Gurukuls in India. Then take some trained people from India and bring them to these countries for a while. The Indian ‘Second Generation Arsh, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars, will need to work with locals to better understand our needs and mindset. It is not easy for an Indian national to easily understand what the western born child's mind set is. This is best understood by people born in America or the Caribbean.

I would suggest that we do some ‘Second Generation Arsh, Updeshaks, Pracharaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars, training of locals during summer sessions. Bring the educated people from India, we need learned people who can teach our ‘Second Generation Arsh , Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars’, and can answer several questions. What about our Vanaprasthis? Can't we train them to be ‘Second Generation Arsh, Pracharaks, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars’? Let them all go out and do some social work.

This brings me to the other question of how we do our work. Why depend only on the Arya Samaj Mandir? We should have other institutions like family outreach etc., as the Christians do. We can learn a lot from the Christians in this matter. As a short term measure I would recommend training Vanaprasthis to become ‘Second Generation Arsh, Pracharaks, Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars’ in their own areas.

Prof. Rajendra Singh, Fellow IEEE, Fellow SPIE, Fellow AAAS and Fellow ASM, D. Houser Banks Professor and Director Center for Silicon Nanoelectronics, Holcombe Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Clemson University Clemson, SC 29634-0915 USA states:

(1) In 2005, Arya Samaj will be 130 years old. During this period many great things have taken shape and became integral part of Arya Samaj. Some how many things also did not happen? Thus we have to bring those missing directions in our second generation of thinking.

(2) We need to up-bring two of the Gurukuls, one for boys and one for the girls in India as our model Gurukuls. This is where we implement, modify and perfect a system that works. After its success, we copy exactly in other parts of the world. Local language, Sanskrit, English must be part of the languages required in all places. Math must be taught with the Vedic approach. Computers must be introduced early in the childhood. Those who have no resources (including no parents) must be given preference to be part of these Gurukuls. All of us outside India can take care of the financial responsibility of these two model Gurukuls in India.

(3) The entire teaching must be based only on the teaching of Vedas. We need to teach the difference between Dharma and religion. Only teaching of Vedas can stand tall on the scrutiny of modern science and technology. The dilution part starts just after Vedas and there is no limit in going down and down. As an example, the concept of Sawaraj or Self Rule was taken by Gandhi from the teaching of Swami Dayananda Saraswati. Of course, Swami Dayananda Saraswati took all the knowledge from Vedas and presented in the way that he thought as the truth. For masses we need to repack 'knowledge from Vedas' the entire core human teachings in a way that it does not create friction with other Hindus, same time does reflect the true nature of Vedic knowledge that is for the welfare of all human beings.

(4) Thus it is clear that present day Vedic Scholars around the globe are looking forward to have this kind of support from Arsh Institutions particularly the Gurukuls. In order to have a unified approach, I will suggest having a two days workshop (arrival on Friday and departure on Sunday afternoon) of all the interested persons on a weekend in Atlanta. With face to face dialog we can converge pretty fast to have a unified approach.

Therefore, an attempt is made to develop infra structure and to produce these 'Second Generation Arsh Pracharaks and Updeshaks, Bhajniks, and Vedic Scholars', who can function as Hindu priests and conduct all Sanskars, able to spread Vedic Dahrma with missionary zeal. This will certainly add to their name and fame, while educating others. The successful out come would be 'that these very people will make their living in a very prosperous way'. Economic fall out is unlimited.

PROPOSAL:

Introduction of English Language to selected groups of pupils at especially receptive Gurukuls to promote and Orators who can deliver Updesh or sermons in English, can participate in Hindu community activities with devotion or Shardha. They can take part with open mind in general debate on religion, philosophy, and can teach Vedic-Hindu- Sanatan Dharma or Religion at various levels in any University institution abroad. These English language trained scholars can conduct Sanskars, or sacraments and can easily but fluently explain socio-religious significance in English language to the audience. There is a great demand for these English speaking Preachers/teachers, Pracharaks and Updeshaks. All Sanatani and Puranic Hindus are in need of English Speaking Hindu Scholars to conduct various Hindu Sanskars /Sacramants in these far away lands. These English speaking trained Vedic Preachers/teachers, Pracharaks and Updeshaks, who can converse in English, can deliver this promise and at the same time help spread Vedic Dharma in the world.

Language of any nature, is always an asset in life, so these English speaking Preachers/teachers, Pracharaks and Updeshaks will not loose any thing if they learned new skill or new language. These English trained Arya missionaries will progress if so desirous to take a lead and can occupy the position at University 'Chair of Hindu religion' in the west as many Hindus are now planning to develop and have established 'Hindu Chair' at some Universities of the USA .

Specially receptive and selected Gurukuls in India to act as focus of growth for training 'Arsh Orators, Scholars, Priests, Pracharaks, Updeshaks, and Bhajniks' in English and other prominent languages of the world. There is a tremendous demand throughout the world especially in many English speaking countries. Time is right to undertake this grass root work. More over, the introduction of English as additional language in these various Gurukuls or Sanskrit Schools or institutions can easily qualify and obtain Indian Government Grants to those who teach English as language in Sanskrit or non English medium institutions such as Gurukuls.

What is expected by these Modern Ideal Gurukuls:

1. A quarterly report about each student, showing how far these students have progressed, what is level of their writing and reading, expressing scholarly debating and writing capabilities. How far is their subject command?
2. How far these students are in public speaking? What is their quality in communication? The level of their scholarly and oratorical presentations, essay competitions, etc. These levels should be specific and measurable.
3. Gurukuls to accommodate and work with the external reviewer who is an official representative of the Grantor of the funds. This external reviewer is free to monitor and suggest how to improve the curriculum etc.
4. Model Gurukuls will select either a retired dedicated or a experienced and devoted English teacher of great repute, negotiate with him/ her regarding salary, hours, scheduled teaching or practicing time either at Gurukul or in the community at various places of competition/presentations etc. Devoted retired persons who plan to dedicate their time and efforts in this direction may be given priority.
5. Money year marked for teaching English, may not be diverted to other Gurukul expenses except for buying books and supply for teaching English.
6. In case there is any kind of dispute, the external reviewer will settle with the Gurukul in close association with the grantor of funds.

Future for these ‘English speaking Pracharak and Updeshak students:

- 1 Once these students have graduated from above modern Ideal Gurukuls then selected English speaking Pracharaks and Updeshaks can be sponsored as either visiting Vedic scholar or Vedic resident priest for a year or two to USA/ Canada, or any where in the western countries where English is a main language of communication on a rotation basis.
2. Once these students complete designed courses they are free to go any where in the world as they wish to establish new arena of Arya Samaj and make their living while preaching similar to Christian missionaries.

3. My sole purpose is to plant a seed for these Purushartha Pracharak people 'to provide wide exposure and a new dimension to their life. They may polish their skills, prepare self to explore the whole world'. Rest is up to them.

Third Generation Arya Samaj Pracharaks & Updeshaks'

Our next step will be to prepare Vedic scholars of languages other than English, such as Spanish, Germans, Dutch, French, Russian, Chinese, Thai, and Arabic etc? The second most common language in the world as spoken by the number of countries is Spanish. I have no knowledge how many Arya Samaj exist in Spanish speaking world? Nor are any in Arabic/Persian speaking countries. Thus there is a vast scope in these and many countries, where billions of people live but completely unaware of Vedic Dharma and its teachings. Think how desperate the situation can be!

Goal of this project:

Collectively with all resources and efforts at our disposal, the central body of Arya Samaj is to plan and develop centers / Model Gurukuls separately for boys and girls for 'English speaking Preachers/teachers, Pracharaks and Updeshaks, Bhajniks and Vedic Scholars'. These 'English speaking Preachers/teachers, Pracharaks and Updeshaks, Bhajniks and Vedic Scholars' to go all over the world especially in the western world of English speaking countries to give a boost to the world wide Vedic Prachar, while serving communities and making their lives more prosperous.

I invite all those whose consciousness is geared to spread the teachings of Vedic Dharma/ philosophy in the world, to come forward and join me in this adventure by making Second and third generation ego free, devoted, and dedicated Arsh Pracharaks /Updeshaks and Scholars. This will fulfill the goal of educating many more, while safe guarding and spreading current teachings of Vedic Dharma to make human beings as better and respectable people.