Title :- Humanitarian Economics and Consciousness: Reimagining Peace and Conflict Resolution through Indian Knowledge Systems

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The current global economic system, which emphasizes competition, continuous growth, and material prosperity, has contributed to growing social inequality, environmental challenges, and economic instability. They act as catalysts in the emergence of conflict in the contemporary era, evident in terms of geopolitical instability as well as insecurity among people. Traditional peacebuilding approaches often focus on managing the effects of these problems through policy measures or wealth redistribution, but they rarely examine the deeper relationship between individuals, society, and the natural environment. This paper provides the conceptual framework of 'Humanitarian Economics and Consciousness' (HEC), an interdisciplinary approach which combines the theories of modern socio-economic analysis with the fundamental doctrines of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) such as metaphysical doctrine of non-dualism (Advaita), ethical doctrine of Dharma and socio-economic doctrine of Sarvodaya.

This study argues that peace involves more than the absence of conflict, it requires a shift in human attitudes, values, and awareness Reinterpreting the human dimension of economics through Indian Knowledge Systems challenges the conventional image of individuals as purely self-interested decision-makers and instead views them as conscious beings whose actions are connected to the well-being of society as a whole. The essay also explores how Dharma-based approaches to conflict management encourage cooperation and shared ethical responsibility rather than competition between opposing interests.

The research paper is organized into three major areas of study. Firstly, the paper criticizes the inadequacy of the current neoliberal indices of development with respect to considering internal, subjective well-being, It proposes an alternative measure of development that incorporates the Indic concepts of Santosha (contentment) and Shanti (peace) alongside conventional economic indicators. Furthermore, this paper will examine the approach of Ahimsa (nonviolence) not as an idle concept, but as an economic tool to show that economies based on nonexploitative transactions reduce structural violence prior to war. Finally, the paper examines practices such as Dhyana and Atma-Vichara and discusses how they may

help negotiators become more self-aware, reduce personal biases, and approach conflicts with greater empathy.

The use of case studies involving grassroots movements that were based on Gandhian and Vedantic economics shows that areas using these types of economic models, which are focused on community and consciousness, have a higher level of social cohesion. It can be argued that incorporating IKS into the global economic discussion presents a strong alternative model to existing scarcity and competitive models. In conclusion, the paper argues that a deeper understanding of human consciousness can help reshape economic policy by encouraging cooperation, shared well-being, and recognition of the interconnected nature of human life. Such a shift could help create the social and ethical foundations needed for a more sustainable, peaceful, and equitable world.