

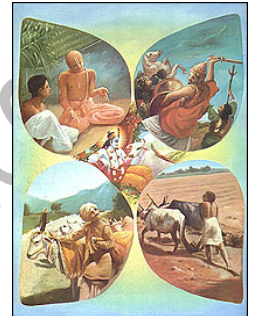
The Spiritual Scientist

An ezine for those who think!

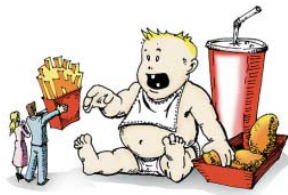
Ending Starvation - The Spiritual Way

Let's see what the root cause and real solution of pressing material problems like starvation is.

1. Self-restraint: Many, if not most, of the people who starve today would be able to earn sufficiently to feed themselves and their families if only they were not addicted to self-destructive indulgences. Historical studies show that most of the self-destructive addictions that haunt a large percentage of the human population today were quite rare in earlier ages, when people were naturally God-fearing. Almost everyone would be able to earn enough food to at least live because their physical and mental energy and money would not be uselessly dissipated in injurious indulgences. Therefore, except in the case of devastating natural calamities, hardly anyone would have to suffer the pangs of starvation.



2. Compassion: The world is plagued not by a shortage of food, but by a shortage of compassion.



Hundreds of tons of food is either thrown into the ocean or allowed to rot in the warehouses due to the vested interests of the powers-that-be. WHO statistics show that as compared to the 800 million people who are undernourished, 1 billion people are obese.

A spiritual vision of life increases compassion and decreases greed. When a wealthy person is God-conscious, his compassion is not restricted to an occasional act of charity; rather his whole life becomes dedicated to helping the deprived in every possible way – materially and spiritually. When the head of state is spiritually enlightened, he cares for all the citizens like his own children – not due to political expediency, but due to spiritual love. He creates the necessary socio-economic structures to provide proper gainful employment for all of them in normal situations and adequate relief during emergencies.



For every thousand hacking at the leaves of evil, there is one striking at its root.

- Henry David Thoreau

Thus godliness automatically engenders goodness; a godly person naturally develops good qualities like self-restraint and compassion, which are essential for any social welfare program to be effective. Striking at the root means promoting spiritual well being both among the have-nots so that they don't dissipate their scarce resources in self-destructive indulgences and among the haves so that they don't squander their abundant resources in revelry.

The easiest and best way of promoting spiritual well being is by empowering them to understand and experience the inner satisfaction that comes from studying philosophical masterpieces like the Bhagavad-gita and by chanting the holy names of God like the Hare Krishna mahamantra. Thus propagation of pure spiritual education and culture, as is done by ISKCON, strikes at the root cause of all suffering, thus addressing pressing social problems like starvation. ☪

