Topic: The Program to Fulfil Basic Human Aspiration

- Subject : **Universal Human Values 2 : Understanding Harmony**

By:
Prajakta Upadhye
Assistant Professor
ETC Department
GHRCEMN,Nagpur

To find out what our happiness and prosperity are related to, let's start with a very simple exercise. Let's make a list of everything we want today and see what these wants or aspirations in turn depend on.

- A big Car
- • Take care of my parents
- • Happiness
- • A good laptop
- • A great house
- • Get a top MBA
- • Big Bike
- • Own a big house
- • Lot of money
- • Not get angry
- • Clean city
- • Knowledge
- • Peaceful society
- • To be a well known person
- • Respect
- • Become a politician
- Roam the world
- Good friends
- • Have great food
- • A nice music system
- • Be healthy
- • Peaceful life
- • Protect Nature
- • Be loved
- • Get good marks
- • Peace of mind
- • A digital camera
- • Be a good person
- • A good guitar
- • Do social work
- • Read a lot of books
- • Have respect
- • Understand the purpose of life
- • Satisfaction

Now let us underline the items that are to do with something physical

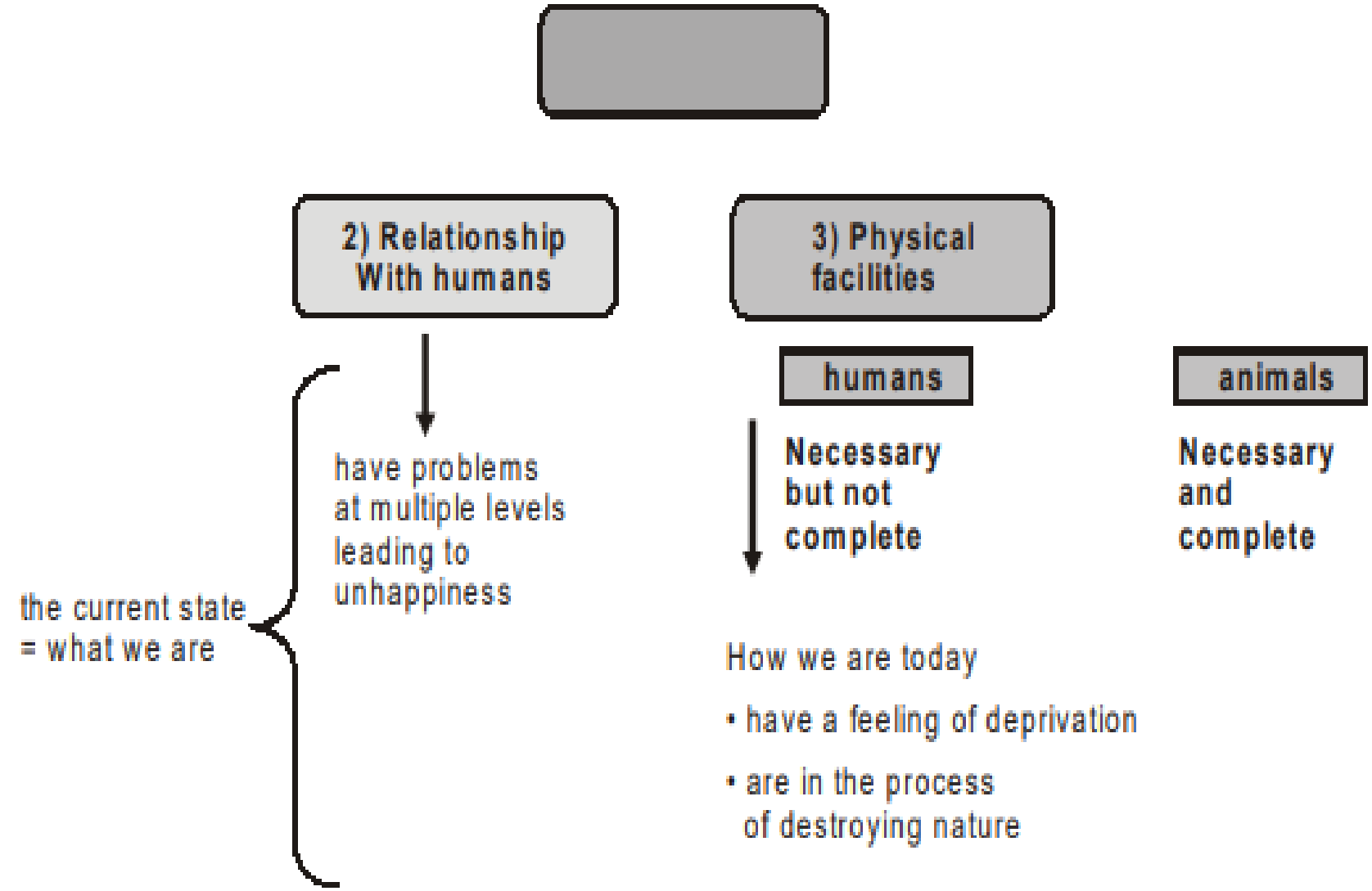
- Now, here is a set of proposals: “Physical facilities are necessary for human beings” “Physical facilities are necessary for human beings and they are necessary for animals.
- “Physical facilities are necessary and complete for animals, while they are necessary but not complete for humans”

- **For animals:** We see that animals need physical things to survive, mainly to take care of their body. Take a cow for example. A cow will look for food when it is hungry. Once it gets the grass or fodder, it eats it, sits around to chew at leisure. Hence, we can see that as long as animals have physical things, they are largely fine. They don't desire other things like knowledge, or a peaceful animal society or getting a good MBA! This is the case with humans, so let us look into how we humans fare

- For humans: Now let's take the human being. Let's take you. Let's say you are hungry. What do you do? You would look for some food, perhaps, some tasty food. Once you have had your fill, do you just sit around and relax? The answer is an emphatic "No"! We all have
- other needs, other plans, perhaps we think of going to a movie, or reading a book, or go to college, or watch some TV, or spend time with family and friends... the list is endless. Thus, it is easy to see that while physical facilities are necessary for us human beings, they are not complete by themselves to fulfil our needs. Our needs are more than just physical facilities; we need physical facilities, but the need does not end there. Hence, we can say for animals – "Physical facilities are necessary and complete"; For humans – "Physical facilities are necessary but not complete" Here is another proposal: "Besides physical facilities, we want relationship"

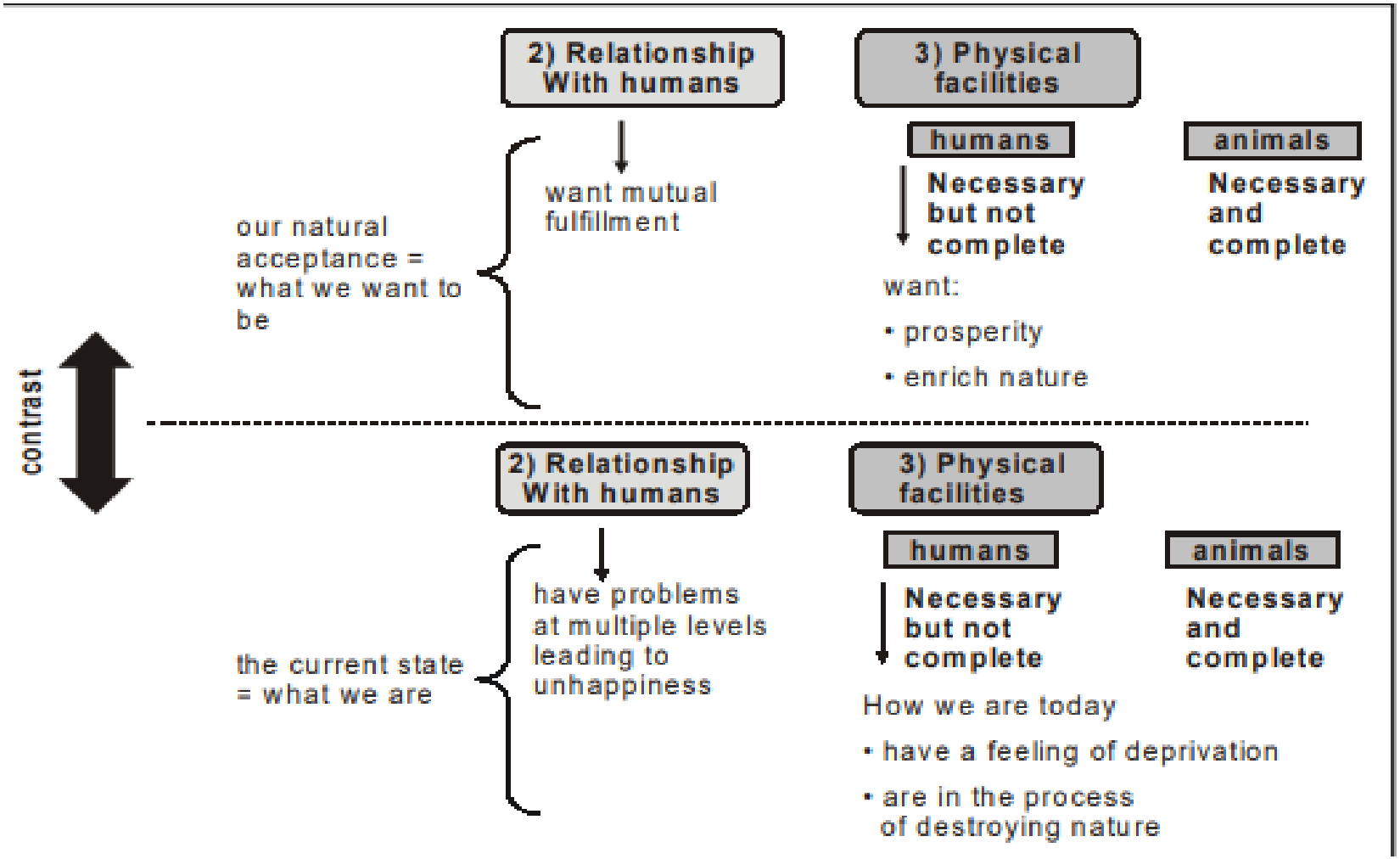
What is Our State Today

- n Relationships Ask yourself this question: "Am I able to have such fulfilling relationships all the time today"?
- What is the answer? Our answer is "Sometimes I have good relationships, sometimes I don't. Or perhaps, mostly I have good relationships, and sometimes I don't," or vice-versa


2) Relationship With humans
3) Physical facilities
humans
animals
have problems at multiple levels leading to unhappiness
Necessary but not complete
Necessary and complete
the current state = what we are
How we are today
• have a feeling of deprivation
• are in the process of destroying nature

- Relationship with humans: We are unable to have fulfilling relationships all the time: in family, outside family, and as a society – in the world at large
- Physical Facilities: We want to feel prosperous, but end up working only for accumulation of wealth.
- We want to enrich nature, but are exploiting it, destroying it

Why Are We in This State? – Living with Wrong Assumptions

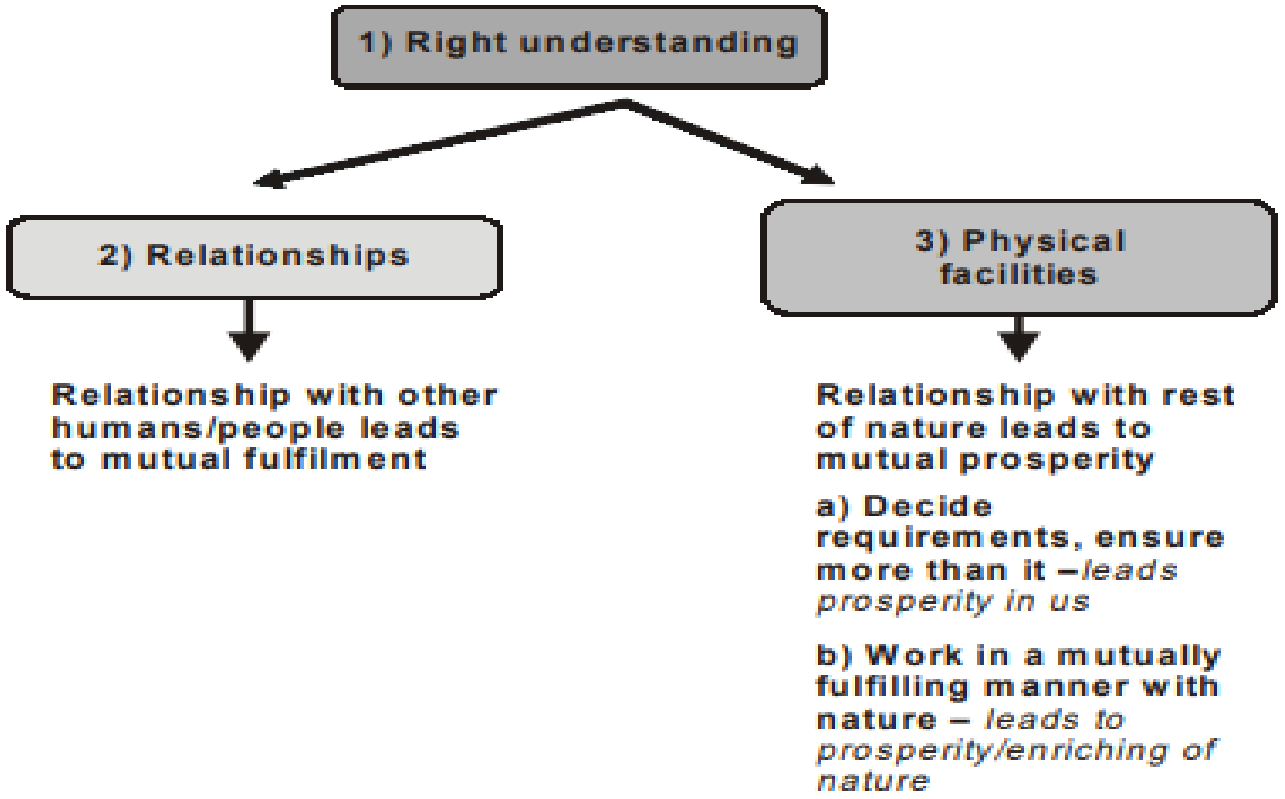


We can make some additional observations here

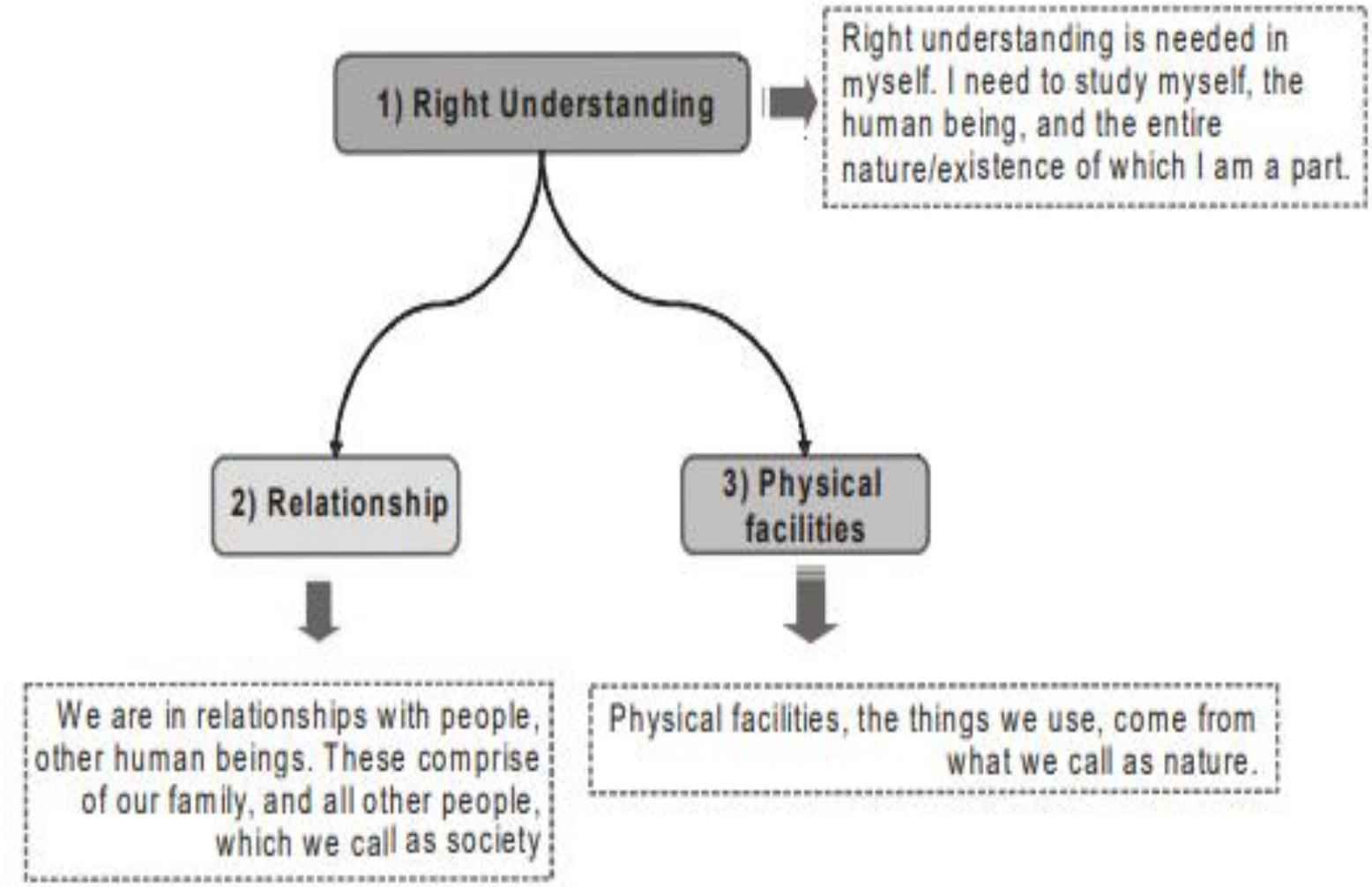
- Question 1: “Is the unhappiness in my family today more due to lack of
- Physical facilities,
  - or
- due to lack of Relationship”?

- Question 2: “How much time am I spending today working to ensure Relationship,
- and how much time do I spend working for, or preparing to get Physical facilities”?

What is the Solution?- The Need for Right Understanding



- Thus, we can conclude the following: We need to work for all three, and this is the order in which we have to work:
- 1. Right Understanding
- 2. Relationship
- 3. Physical facilities Working with this order, we are able to ensure mutual fulfilment with human beings and mutual prosperity with the rest of nature.
- Right understanding + Relationship = Mutual fulfilment
- Right understanding + Physical facilities = Mutual prosperity


1) Right Understanding
Right understanding is needed in myself. I need to study myself, the human being, and the entire nature/existence of which I am a part.
2) Relationship
3) Physical facilities
We are in relationships with people, other human beings. These comprise of our family, and all other people, which we call as society
Physical facilities, the things we use, come from what we call as nature.