

Abstract

THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE IN KNOWLEDGE-CREATION FOR THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

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IN an influential article, Marcella (1998) presented the template of “global-community psychology.” He entreated researchers to replace the Western cultural traditions by more encompassing multi-cultural traditions, and noted that many indigenous psychologies are well equipped to deal with multi-level behavioral contexts, from individual differences to family to society to nature to spirituality. He championed qualitative research methods such as narrative accounts, discourse analysis, and ethnographic analysis. This paper presents a model for creating knowledge for the global village by starting from indigenous cultural knowledge. It provides an example of how psychological models can be distilled from indigenous texts. Synthesizing my past work, I present two models in this paper, which are derived from the *Bhagavad Gita*. First, a process model of “Attainment of Peace” is derived from Chapter 2, and then a process model of “Self, Work, and Spirituality” is derived from Chapter 3 of the *Bhagavad Gita*. The way work is encroaching upon our life and being, work takes a center stage in our lives, and its relationship to self and spirituality are equally significant. Similarly, the increasing general stress level in the world, both industrialized and developing, has made attainment of peace a survival issue for the global community. It is hoped that these models, would make significant contributions to the enterprise of knowledge-creation in the global village.

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