

O Sun God, Savitr!  
Thou dazzling fount of life-persuasive light!  
Sublimest mystery speeding from afar!  
Swift became that burst too potent on the sight!  
This radiant type of strength and youth!  
Glowing eternal.

He alone shines!  
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!  
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!  
- Kathopanishad



శ్రీ వేపచేడు విద్యా పీఠము

May the golden-eyed Savitar come hither!  
Steering forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!  
Praised by singers, my God Savitar!  
Stopped forth and never missed his place!  
He steps forth the splendor of the sky the wide!  
Seeing, far-shining, the shining wanderer!  
- Rig Veda. vii. 65

# VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

మన సంస్కృతి (MANA SANSKRITI)

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Issue 248

Chief Editor: డాక్టర్ శ్రీనివాసరావు వేపచేడు | डॉक्टर श्रीनिवासरारु वेपचेडु | Dr. Sreenivasarac Vepachedu<sup>1</sup>

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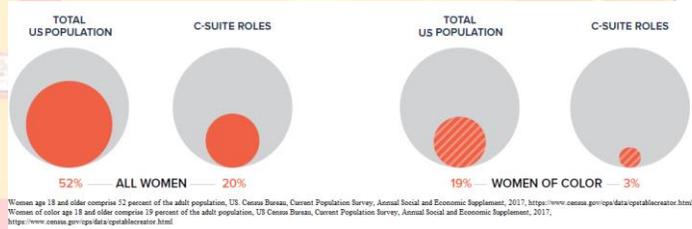
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## AMERICAN WOMAN & RACE

A record 40% of all households with children under the age of 18 include mothers who are either the sole or primary source of income for the family, share was just 11% in 1960. Breadwinner mothers, married and single, have grown in size in the past five decades, according to a 2013 report<sup>1</sup>. About 75% of mothers with children under 18 are employed full-time<sup>2</sup>. Women receive more college and graduate degrees than men and are almost half of the workforce and are the sole or co-breadwinner in half of families with children in US<sup>3</sup>. Yet, women remain underrepresented at every level in corporate America, despite earning more college degrees than men for thirty years and counting. Women of all races and ethnicities negotiate for raises and promotions at rates comparable to their male counterparts<sup>4</sup>. Yet, in 2016, female full-time, year-round workers made only 80.5 cents for every dollar earned by men, a gender wage gap of 20%<sup>5</sup>. Further, many women tend to work fewer hours, many working part-time or temporary jobs<sup>6</sup>.



Race and sex discrimination in employment, covering recruitment, pay and compensation, training and promotion, was made illegal by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964<sup>7</sup>, to enforce the constitutional right to vote, to confer jurisdiction upon the district courts of the United States to provide injunctive relief against discrimination in public accommodations, to authorize the attorney General to institute suits to protect constitutional rights in public facilities and public education, to extend the Commission on Civil

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Rights, to prevent discrimination in federally assisted programs, to establish a Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, and for other purposes.

Successful employment discrimination lawsuits may result in individual relief, such as monetary compensation for individual victims of discrimination and injunctive relief, such as changes to the employer’s human resource management policies and practices aimed at creating a workplace free of discrimination for all workers. Very few employment discrimination lawsuits, however, actually result in injunctive relief. Those that include injunctive relief most commonly are court-supervised pre-trial settlements called consent decrees<sup>8</sup>.

As a result of declining fertility rates and decreasing international migration, the population of the US is growing more slowly than in previous decades and is also getting older<sup>9</sup>. Consistent with its decline over the past 10-year period, manufacturing employment is projected to continue to fall. The health care and social assistance sector will account for over a third of the nation’s projected job growth from 2014 to 2024. The construction industry is projected to have the largest industry increase in employment, but construction employment is not expected to reach precession levels by 2024<sup>10</sup>. A review of the 2014–24 projections reveals that the labor force is projected to grow over the next 10 years at an average annual rate of 0.5%, a slower rate than in recent decades, and certain demographic groups are projected to grow more rapidly than others. Women are expected to see their numbers in the labor force grow more slowly than in 2004–14<sup>11</sup>.

Women have caught up to men as family earners and actually outpace them in academic achievement. However, they continue to bear a disproportionate portion of household and family responsibilities.

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According to a study<sup>12</sup>, women who are primary breadwinners are doing more at home than their male counterparts and even more than working mothers who are not providing their family's primary financial support. Mothers with jobs that provide their family's major source of income are also two/three times more likely to be managing the household and children's schedules than breadwinning fathers, and more than 30 percent more likely than other working mothers to be taking care of everything from family finances to organizing family vacations.



A child's school day includes not only physical pick-up and drop-off, but also the perpetual mental awareness of schedules including early release days, carpools, doctor's appointments, play dates, special events, field trips, class parties, science fairs, who needs to bring what, and which day requires special supplies. And those are only some of the items on the family list that require a working mother's constant mental presence, and they continue to bear a disproportionate portion of household and parenting responsibilities, a continuously compounding *mental load*<sup>13</sup>. Data from the 2017 Modern Family Index<sup>14</sup> shows the old era still stubbornly hangs on in the new Internet era of the 21<sup>st</sup>

century, with male breadwinners more than three times less likely to stay on top of the family's schedules. Dads want to help, but are similarly hamstrung by equal and opposite professional expectations. Workplace cultures that subtly sustain gender stereotypes by supporting women as caregivers and men as employees. Women taking time away from work for family commitments, for example, often raise fewer eyebrows than men, making women the family's obvious default choice for the bulk of family

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obligations. In the workplace shows that outright discrimination in pay, hiring, or promotions continues to be a significant feature of working life. If change continues at the same slow pace as it has done for the past 50 years, it will take until 2059 for White women, until 2124 Black women, and until 2233 Hispanic women to finally reach pay parity<sup>15</sup>.

One of the most powerful reasons for this in US is the diversity blind spot. To solve a problem, one needs to know, see, and understand clearly the problem from all perspectives, and having blind spots in understanding the problem results in solutions that will certainly fail<sup>16</sup>. So, [How You Can Encourage More Women Into Your Workforce \(read more at<sup>17</sup>\)?](#)

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### CULTURAL APPROPRIATION & CODESWITCHING

Appropriation means an act or instance of setting apart for a special purpose and a sum of money set apart for a special purpose. Appropriation is the designation by the government or an individual of the use to which a fund of money is to be applied. The selection and setting apart of privately owned land by the government for public use, such as a military reservation or public building. The diversion of water flowing on public domain from its natural course by means of a canal or ditch for a private beneficial use of the appropriator. Appropriation also refers to the physical taking and occupation of property by the government or its actual, substantial interference with the owner's right to use the land according to personal wishes by virtue of the government's power of Eminent Domain<sup>18</sup>. It is also the application of the payment of a sum of money, made by a debtor to his creditor, to one of several debts<sup>19</sup>. It also means an act of taking something for your own use without permission from the owner - an instance of taking illegally or unfairly. Appropriation is one of several torts falling under the category of invasion of privacy. Appropriation occurs when a defendant uses a plaintiff's name, likeness, or image without his or her permission for commercial purposes<sup>20</sup>.

Thus, obviously, cultural appropriation is negative and is defined as misappropriation. Oxford Dictionary defines cultural appropriation as the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture. Oxford Dictionary defines cultural appropriation as the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs, practices, ideas, etc. of one people or society by members of another and typically more dominant people or society. Wall Street journal defines cultural appropriation is defined as the borrowing of a cultural aspect of a weaker group or nation by a dominant group or nation<sup>21</sup>. It means

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what it sounds like, the appropriation by a privileged group of an oppressed group's culture without permission<sup>22</sup>. It is simplistic to define cultural appropriation as above, because it assumes a) the White people are dominant, and b) it is tough and maybe wrong to distinguish between the dominant and the week societies in a global cultural paradigm in a human civilization of several millennia that has served to enrich humanity throughout the history<sup>23</sup>. The dominant culture that colonizes weaker societies at a given point in time may not be dominant at a different time. Colonialism is the systematic subjugation of one group of people by another, where that subjugation is motivated and



rationalized by the nationalist ideology allowing them to ruthlessly exploit natural and human resources of others by plunder and enslaving the weaker nations, e.g., Chinese, European, Indian, Japanese, and Ottoman empires were able establish empires by subjugation of nations and cultures throughout the continents of Africa, America, Asia, Australia, and India. However, it is mostly associated with White European aggressor

today over all others *varnas* (colors). Therefore, cultural appropriation is where people from a group that oppressed or oppresses another group mimics or represents cultural artifacts or manners of the

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oppressed group in a way that *expresses or reinforces psychological elements of the racist ideology inherent in the colonialist project responsible for the oppression*. Such appropriating mimicry can take many forms, but what unifies them will be an implicit or explicit view of other people that makes them out to be less than what they are<sup>24</sup>. Yoga was banned in India during the British rule and has become adopted by the western world with millions of practitioners and yoga studios on almost every corner. English was shunned by Brahmins during the same period<sup>25</sup>, but now every language in the Indian continent has replaced fundamental vocabulary with English, e.g., Tenglish. No one should forget that Indian *bindis* became trendy in the mid-1990s, not long after Indians in New Jersey were being targeted by a hate group that called itself Dotbusters, referencing the *bindi*, resulting in some Indians avoiding the *bindi* wearing out of fear of being attacked<sup>26</sup>.

Borrowing from other cultures is inevitable as historical evidence demonstrates and potentially positive<sup>27</sup>, but not always. When a language borrows new words from a different culture and language for new ideas, inventions, traditions, etc., that language gains vocabulary, which is positive and such languages are living languages with a history and an increasingly vast vocabulary, e.g., English. Most languages in the world today borrow heavily from English due to its richness, superiority (felt by inferior languages), colonial imperial past, and current American superiority. Such borrowing is not imposed by a colonizer but it is due to a combination of inferiority complex of weaker nations due to perceived or real linguistic inferiority, inability to speak two distinct languages (bilingualism) resulting in code switching/mixing (mixed language)<sup>28</sup>, and the strength of English that commands respect. For example, the dead Telugu language of about 80 million Telugu Indians living in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states in the Indian Union has borrowed after the Independence from the British colonial rule to

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become a new **elite language Tenglish**, which cannot be understood by any native English speaker or any Telugu who did not learn English<sup>29</sup>.

The elite language Tenglish and such other code switching/mixing<sup>30</sup> elitist languages are due to the following reasons<sup>31</sup>:

- 1) **Impairment:** Children with **Specific Language Impairment (SLI)** exhibit limited grammatical skills compared to their peers with typical language. These difficulties may be revealed when alternating their two languages (i.e., codeswitching/mixing) within sentences<sup>32</sup>. SLI is a language disorder that delays the mastery of language skills in children who have no hearing loss or other developmental delays. SLI is also called developmental language disorder, language delay, or developmental dysphasia. It is one of the most common childhood learning disabilities, affecting approximately 7 to 8 % of children in kindergarten. The impact of SLI persists into adulthood. Children with SLI have significant communication problems, which are also characteristic of most children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Impairments in understanding and the onset of spoken language are common in both groups<sup>33</sup>.
- 2) **Lizard Brain:** The amygdala, the lizard brain<sup>34</sup> in the brain that senses danger, where instincts and gut feelings, primal thoughts, subconscious or involuntary processes, takes over language skills. Meaning, Tenglish speakers may consider themselves elite, but they are speaking with their fears and complexes, but not thinking rationally



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and are unable to find proper words to complete even a single sentence in one language.

- 3) **Peer Pressure**<sup>35</sup>: Tenglish speakers have the inferiority complex<sup>36</sup> and they want to fit in with the elite that speaks with some bombastic English words in it to gain respect and get things done in cosmopolitan cities in which people cannot speak a single language fluently and use their lizard brains and try to fit in for the fear and insecurity of being left out and failure.
- 4) **Ingratiation**: People speak Tenglish, Turdu, or other code-switching to ingratiate themselves to others, i.e., bring themselves into favor with others by pleasing them. If you can use English words and sentences, you can get all kinds of favors in the service industry, government offices, businesses, etc., and if you speak Telugu you will be treated like uneducated villager.
- 5) **Secrecy**: Code switchers/mixers want to say something in secret and code-switching helps hide in plain sight, as both native Telugu and English speakers are at a loss in understanding Tenglish.
- 6) **Elitism**<sup>37</sup>: Tenglish speakers want to stand out and distinguish themselves from native speakers because they consider the native speakers uneducated villagers.
- 7) **Ethnicity**: A speaker may switch to another language as a signal of group membership. People from different or the same ethnic groups can use code switching to express intercommunity, such as the Tenglish elite.
- 8) **Expression**: Some feelings and attitudes are not that easy to be expressed in certain inferior languages lacking in the vocabulary. Those speakers of inferior language switch to English words to express greetings, love, affection, gratitude, amazement, frustration, sadness, happiness and many other feelings<sup>38</sup>.

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Acceptable conversational and writing etiquettes are defined by the family and society in which one was brought up. The decision to code switch in behaviors or languages is up to an individual's judgement. Becoming critical thinkers, behaving according to the context and continuously growing linguistically, regardless of the language, are the most important things here. But Tenglish or other bastardized language is what most of the world has today, except the French<sup>39</sup>, the English, the Americans, and other colonial/imperial powers.

<sup>1</sup> Breadwinner Moms (29 May 2013) [http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/05/Breadwinner\\_moms\\_final.pdf](http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/05/Breadwinner_moms_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> New Research Shows the "Mental Load" is Real and Significantly Impacts Working Mothers Both at Home and Work (2013) <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/05/29/breadwinner-moms/>

Getting to gender equality starts with realizing how far we have to go<sup>3</sup> <https://womenintheworkplace.com/>

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<sup>5</sup> Pay Equity & Discrimination <https://iwpr.org/issue/employment-education-economic-change/pay-equity-discrimination/>

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<sup>7</sup> Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 <https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/titlevii.cfm>

<sup>8</sup> Ending Sex and Race Discrimination in the Workplace Legal Interventions that Push the Envelope <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/wpallimport/files/iwpr-export/publications/C379.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Population projections: 2012 national population projections (U.S. Census Bureau, December 18, 2014),

<https://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2012.html>; US Census Bureau projections show a slower growing, older, more diverse nation a half century from now, Newsroom Archive (US Census Bureau, December 12, 2012), <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb12-243.html>; and "Census Bureau lowers U.S. growth forecast, mainly due to reduced immigration and births" (Washington, DC: Pew Research Center, Social & Demographic Trends, December 14, 2012), <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/12/14/census-bureau-lowers-u-s-growth-forecast-mainly-due-to-reduced-immigration-and-births/censuspopproj2012birthsdeathsimm-5/>

<sup>10</sup> Industry employment and output projections to 2024 <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/industry-employment-and-output-projections-to-2024.htm>

<sup>11</sup> Labor force projections to 2024: the labor force is growing, but slowly <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/labor-force-projections-to-2024.htm>: Every 2 years, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects labor force levels for the next 10 years. The present set of projections estimates the future size, composition, and growth rate of the labor force over the 2014–24 timeframe.

Overview of projections to 2024 <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/overview-of-projections-to-2024.htm>

The US Economy to 2024 <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2015/article/the-us-economy-to-2024.htm>

<sup>12</sup> New Research Shows the "Mental Load" is Real and Significantly Impacts Working Mothers Both at Home and Work

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20171220005984/en/New-Research-Shows-%E2%80%9CMental-Load%E2%80%9D-Real-Significantly>

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- <sup>13</sup> MODERN FAMILY INDEX 2017 [https://solutionsatwork.brighthorizons.com/~media/BH/SAW/PDFs/GeneralAndWellbeing/MFI\\_2017\\_Report\\_v4.ashx](https://solutionsatwork.brighthorizons.com/~media/BH/SAW/PDFs/GeneralAndWellbeing/MFI_2017_Report_v4.ashx)
- <sup>14</sup> The Modern Family Index is an internet-based survey conducted by Kelton Global from October 11 to October 20, 2017. The sample consisted of 2,082 employed Americans over the age of 18 with at least one child under the age of 18. The survey was conducted online and has a margin of error of +/- 2.2%.
- <sup>15</sup> If Current Trends Continue, Hispanic Women Will Wait 232 Years for Equal Pay; Black Women Will Wait 108 Years [https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/wpallimport/files/iwpr-export/publications/Q058\\_final.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/wpallimport/files/iwpr-export/publications/Q058_final.pdf);  
<https://iwpr.org/publications/if-current-trends-continue-hispanic-women-will-wait-232-years-for-equal-pay-black-women-will-wait-108-years/>
- <sup>16</sup> Getting to gender equality starts with realizing how far we have to go <https://womenintheworkplace.com/>;  
[https://womenintheworkplace.com/Women\\_in\\_the\\_Workplace\\_2017.pdf](https://womenintheworkplace.com/Women_in_the_Workplace_2017.pdf)
- <sup>17</sup> How You Can Encourage More Women Into Your Workforce [https://www.forbes.com/sites/pragyaagarwaleurope/2018/08/31/how-you-can-encourage-more-women-into-your-workforce/?utm\\_source=LINKEDIN\\_COMPANY&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=1752501705&utm\\_campaign=sprinklrForbesMainLI#469cae6373bb](https://www.forbes.com/sites/pragyaagarwaleurope/2018/08/31/how-you-can-encourage-more-women-into-your-workforce/?utm_source=LINKEDIN_COMPANY&utm_medium=social&utm_content=1752501705&utm_campaign=sprinklrForbesMainLI#469cae6373bb)
- <sup>18</sup> Appropriation <https://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/appropriation> This right of an individual to use water that belongs to the public is embodied in the prior appropriation doctrine applied in arid western states where water supplies are not available in sufficient quantity to all who might need them. An individual landowner who first diverts water for personal benefit is entitled to its continued use as long as there is a reasonable need and the water is actually used.
- What is APPROPRIATION? <https://thelawdictionary.org/appropriation/>  
Appropriation Law and Legal Definition <https://definitions.uslegal.com/a/appropriation/>  
US GAO - The Red Book - Government Accountability Office <https://www.gao.gov/legal/appropriations-law-decisions/red-book>
- <sup>19</sup> APPROPRIATION <https://www.lectlaw.com/def/a202.htm>
- <sup>20</sup> When a defendant uses a plaintiff's name or likeness for a newsworthy purpose, however, this does not fall under the tort of appropriation and can be used as a defense by defendants <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/appropriation>
- <sup>21</sup> Cultural Borrowing Is Great; The Problem Is Disrespect <https://www.wsj.com/articles/cultural-borrowing-is-great-the-problem-is-disrespect-1535639194>
- <sup>22</sup> Cultural appropriation? Try cultural sharing <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/page/ct-cultural-appropriation-pepsi-page-perspec-0412-md-20170411-story.html>; My nephew tried to school me on cultural appropriation. It didn't end well.  
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-perspec-appropriation-cultural-0830-story.html>
- <sup>23</sup> Cultural appropriation <https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Cultural%20Appropriation>  
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A Guide to Understanding and Avoiding Cultural Appropriation <https://www.thoughtco.com/cultural-appropriation-and-why-its-wrong-2834561>;

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All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!  
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Seeing, far-shining, the shining wanderer!  
-Rig Veda. vii. 65

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Cultural Appropriation vs. Appreciation <https://www.pbs.org/video/what-i-hear-cultural-appropriation-vs-appreciation/>; One of my favorite restaurants is being criticized for cultural appropriation. Should I boycott it? <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/aug/01/restaurant-boycott-called-out-cultural-appropriation>; Is Cultural Appropriation Always Wrong? <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/04/magazine/is-cultural-appropriation-always-wrong.html>

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What Does 'Cultural Appropriation' Actually Mean? <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/04/cultural-appropriation/521634/> ;  
Every Culture Appropriates. The question is less whether a dress or an idea is borrowed, than the uses to which it's then put. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/05/cultural-appropriation/559802/>

<sup>28</sup> Code switching and code mixing are commonly used in the third world and poor countries in continents of India and Africa, where English, French, Arabic, or other superior language ruled, wherein two languages are used spontaneously in one clause or utterance, such as Tenglish; use of two or more languages in the same conversation, usually within the same conversational turn, or even within the same sentence of that turn.  
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Codeswitching in Bilingual Children with Specific Language Impairment <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3354921/>  
To switch or not to switch: Code-switching in a multilingual country [https://ac.els-cdn.com/S1877042815056001/1-s2.0-S1877042815056001-main.pdf?\\_tid=edb19c19-ae61-463c-bf19-de87d0da7ccc&acdnat=1535859195\\_1d1be4b4058500c3ee396ea08360344e](https://ac.els-cdn.com/S1877042815056001/1-s2.0-S1877042815056001-main.pdf?_tid=edb19c19-ae61-463c-bf19-de87d0da7ccc&acdnat=1535859195_1d1be4b4058500c3ee396ea08360344e)  
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Should Code-Switching Be Taught in Schools? <https://www.theatlantic.com/letters/archive/2018/04/letters-julie-washington-the-code-switcher/559178/>; To

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CODE SWITCHING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LINGUISTIC SYSTEM OF SIMULTANEOUS BILINGUAL CHILDREN [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322711588\\_CODE\\_SWITCHING\\_AND\\_THE\\_DEVELOPMENT\\_OF\\_LINGUISTIC\\_SYSTEM\\_OF\\_SIMULTANEOUS\\_BILINGUAL\\_CHILDREN](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322711588_CODE_SWITCHING_AND_THE_DEVELOPMENT_OF_LINGUISTIC_SYSTEM_OF_SIMULTANEOUS_BILINGUAL_CHILDREN)

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Our Three Brains - The Reptilian Brain <https://www.interaction-design.org/literature/article/our-three-brains-the-reptilian-brain>  
The reptilian brain <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4406946/>  
7 Ways to Engage Your Customer's Reptilian Brain <https://www.neurosciencemarketing.com/blog/articles/reptilian-brain-2.htm>

<sup>35</sup> Teens and Peer Pressure <https://www.webmd.com/parenting/features/peer-pressure#1>

<sup>36</sup> Inferiority complex, a psychological sense of inferiority that is wholly or partly unconscious. The term has been used by some psychiatrists and psychologists, particularly the followers of the early psychoanalyst Alfred Adler, who held that many neurotic symptoms could be traced to overcompensation for this feeling. The use of the word complex later gained acceptance to denote the group of emotionally toned ideas, partially or even wholly repressed, organized around and related to such feelings of inferiority. The term inferiority complex has lost much of its significance through imprecise popular misuse—for example, as an inappropriately facile explanation of any show of ambition by a person of less-than-average height. <https://www.britannica.com/science/inferiority-complex>

<sup>37</sup> The belief that certain persons or members of certain groups deserve favored treatment by virtue of their superiority, as in intelligence, social standing, or wealth; behavior arising from or indicative of such a belief; control, rule, or domination by the members of an elite. An example of such elitism is seen in the American democracy - the belief that society should be governed by a select group of individuals called the Electoral College. Why our presidents are elected by a clique of elites. The whole thing is controlled by a cabal of elites who actually pick the nation's commander-in-chief, and who, theoretically, have the power to defy voters. <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-electoral-college-history-20161217-story.html>; Electoral College is rooted in elitism (opinion) [https://www.annistonstar.com/the\\_daily\\_home/walter-williams-wrong-electoral-college-is-rooted-in-elitism-opinion/article\\_7964ef24-0146-11e8-94a7-3bd23fe15508.html](https://www.annistonstar.com/the_daily_home/walter-williams-wrong-electoral-college-is-rooted-in-elitism-opinion/article_7964ef24-0146-11e8-94a7-3bd23fe15508.html);

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<sup>39</sup> In a Kazakh bilingual school, the students code switch whenever there is a lexical gap in one of the languages, e.g., when they talk in French, they say “le smart board” and “le lunchbox” because notions of a lunch box and smart board are foreign for the French. This borrowing enriches the French language (see above 38). However, the Tenglish replace the native Telugu words and other borrowed words from other languages like Sanskrit, Arabic, and Urdu with English words to show off their proficiency in English and affiliation to the elite group of the Tenglish. This replacing of the Telugu vocabulary does not enrich Telugu language, but kills Telugu by replacing it with Tenglish (see also [Benefits of Bilingualism](#), [Mana Sanskriti, Issue 78 \(Special\) \(July 2004\)](#) Bilingualism: A Sacred Mantra to Save Endangered Cultures, [Mana Sanskriti, Issue 84 \(January 2005; published 29 December 2004\)](#) <http://www.vedah.net/manasanskriti/bilingualism.html>; [Krishnamurtisastri Sripada \(1866-1960\)](#) <http://www.vedah.net/manasanskriti/sripada.html>).

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2004 AD, July

## Benefits of Bilingualism

Babies arrive into this world as world-citizens, ready to adapt the language of their parents. Whatever language babies hear becomes a permanent part of their life. Learning language begins surprisingly very early, even when the baby is in the womb. At around 6 months they start to identify the special sounds of their mother tongue. Babies are like little birdies gobbling up language from their parents. If parents belong to two different nationalities and speak their respective languages at home with their babies, then the babies will become bilingual because of their need to understand both parents. In this aspect Indians have a distinct advantage even if the parents belong to the same nationality and live in their native states in the Indian Union. They speak the official language of the state, English - the international language and the official language of the Indian Union - and also Hindi if you are a Telugu living in Andhra Pradesh. (However, if you are a Hindi or Muslim in Andhra Pradesh, you don't have to learn the state language - Telugu or Tenglish).

Most will agree that two heads are better than one in solving problems. The same relationship may be true for language and retaining cognitive processes as we age. Being fluent in two languages seems to prevent some of the cognitive decline seen in same-age monolingual speaking persons, according to the findings of a study appeared in June in the *Journal of Psychology and Aging*. It is established that learned knowledge and habitual procedures (crystallized intelligence) hold up well as people age, but abilities that depend on keeping one's attention on a task (fluid intelligence) actually decline as people get older. All the bilinguals in this study used their two languages everyday. The authors conclude that bilingualism offers widespread benefits across a range of complex cognitive tasks.

However, speakers of Tenglish (a mixture of Telugu and English in the state of Andhra Pradesh in the Indian Union), for example, may not avail these benefits, as they don't speak two different languages without mixing them up. Unfortunately, these so-called educated Tenglish speakers lack fluid intelligence that enables using two distinct languages and hence, for all practical purposes, they are monolingual. The tests of people who grew

up speaking English and either Tamil or French suggested that having to juggle two distinct languages keeps the brain elastic and may help prevent some of the mental slowing caused by age. The difference was that these bilinguals grew up with either French or Tamil spoken at home and English outside. They all spoke both languages every day from childhood without mixing them up.

Bilingualism is not a facility or a talent, but it is a result of being forced to function in two distinct languages having different vocabularies from a young age, when it is nothing but a play for a child. Both French and Tamil speakers have a very healthy respect for their languages and nationalities and accordingly their languages remain unadulterated by English numbers, day-to-day words like mother, father, sister, brother, plate, cup, food, lunch, dinner, weekdays, morning, evening, night, latrine, bathroom, bed, hello etc. Whereas Tenglish speakers substitute such English words for everyday vocabulary, erasing any benefits of differences between Telugu and English. As the saying goes, "no pain, no gain," to be a real bilingual is a lot of hard work for parents, especially mothers, but fun for the babies. And the benefits include keeping the cognitive abilities in the old age, in addition to the ability to speak two or more distinct languages for whatever worth it may be in this expanding English speaking modern global village.

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[Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!](#)

[\(Om! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality and peace!\)](#)

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[Hosted by Dr. Ramesh Cherivirala](#)

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O Sun God, Savitr!  
Thou dazzling fount of life-persuasive light!  
Sublimest mystery speeding from afar!  
Swift became that burst too potent on the sight!  
This radiant type of strength and youth!  
Glowing eternal.

We alone shine!  
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!  
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!  
-Kathopanishad



శ్రీ వేపచేడు విద్యా పీఠము

May the golden-eyed Savitar come hither!  
Shining forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!  
Praised by singers, my God Savitar!  
Stopped forth and never missed his place!  
He steps forth the splendor of the sky the wide!  
Seeing, far-shining, the shining wanderer!  
-Rig Veda. vii. 65

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## Bilingualism

*A Sacred Mantra to Save Endangered Cultures*

Language gives us the identity, culture, religion and science that distinguish us from others. However, language probably had little to do with our survival or social organization, as we are not the only life form that has a complex social organization or that has survived on this tiny Earth in this universe. Nevertheless, language is the most important distinguishing feature of us.

I think human language is a product of evolution that has distinguished us from the rest of the life forms in the world. We are a very young species with very little genetic diversity. Yet we exhibit enormous cultural diversity that other life forms really don't show, at least to our knowledge. I attribute this diversity to our language to a large extent. We have different religions, marriage systems, dances etc. and the differences are all primarily due to our language. The language is the standard by which the scientific studies differentiate cultures. The day we lost our language, the distinction between us and the rest would be erased. In addition, we need variety and diversity among ourselves as human beings, just for the fun of it! Otherwise life would be monotonously homogeneous.

Humans evolved their cognitive abilities from an enormous number of mutations. These were acquired through exceptionally intense selection favoring more complex cognitive abilities. It was social interactions that pushed for bigger brains among the earliest humans. Humans split from monkeys 20 to 25 million years ago at which point mutations in genes that build the brain mushroomed in the human line. University of Chicago researchers reported that 24 genes had undergone rapid evolutionary changes

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 Skimming forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!  
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in humans and not in the other three species studied - monkey, rat and mouse<sup>1</sup>. Seventeen are involved in building the brain and regulating behavior, and their rate of mutational change was two to three times greater than that of chimps and monkeys. Human brain is 6-9 times larger<sup>2</sup> than the brain of a monkey, our relative. Another set of evolutionary pressures on the brain set in about 4 million years ago with the development of primitive tools and other cultural accomplishments that ultimately lead to language. Cultural development meant not only genes but also learning could pass on new information to offspring. Most of our brain develops after birth from the experiences it encounters in its environment during the long childhood and dependency on parents and society. Intelligence matters even more now than it has even in the recent past. Children go through all kinds of hurdles to rise up in society. People are constantly competing largely based on their mental capacities than ever before. We distinguish us from others either by language, culture, or intelligence.

Measuring cultural diversity is difficult, but a good indicator is the number of languages spoken in a region or in the world as a whole. Agriculturists wiped out languages, when they moved out of Mesopotamia and replaced hunter-gatherer cultures in Europe and elsewhere 10,000 years ago. As a result, today we have only a fraction of diversity left. Now, half of the world's population speaks one of the ten most common languages. Approximately ten % of the world's 6000 languages are now spoken by 100 or fewer native speakers. The 1961 and 1971 censuses had listed 1652 languages as mother tongues spoken in *Bhaarat* (the Indian Union), of which 33 languages are spoken by more than 100,000 people each. Today, there are only 18 national languages recognized by *Bhaarat*<sup>3</sup>. The United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) says, "*Losing a language and its cultural context is like burning a unique reference book of the natural world.*"<sup>4</sup>

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We are in another major transformation and are going through a period of precipitous decline in the world's cultural diversity<sup>5</sup>. David Graddol says, "We are living through an extraordinary moment of linguistic history. The world's languages system, having evolved over centuries, has reached a point of crisis and is now rapidly restructuring." He thinks that we will experience a rapid and disorienting change resulting in a new linguistic world order<sup>6</sup>. Some experts suggest that mass migrations of people moving from poor regions to rich areas will destroy our cultural diversity. To say that we will have one big homogenous world may sound like hyperbole, however, there is that possibility distinctly hanging on our collective linguistic cultural head like a sword of Damocles<sup>7</sup>.

Biodiversity is essential to the long-term survival of life on earth. Similarly, it can be argued that human cultural diversity is vital for the long-term survival of humanity. Thus, the conservation of indigenous cultures is as important to our survival as the conservation of species and ecosystems is to the life on earth as a whole.

Our ancestors respected everything in this world, but today we don't even respect our own mother tongue. Language is not just for communication; it is the mother of our culture. The vitality of any culture rests in the continuity of the language. Language strengthens the bonds between generations. It is really difficult on a community when grandchildren can't speak fluently with their grandparents. We should recognize that all languages are equally valuable and they allow us to see the range of human expression. In addition, there are academic reasons, community identity issues and economic benefits in preserving our languages and cultures. It is also important to understand that language should not be viewed in isolation, but in conjunction with broad acculturation and destruction of native cultures by dominant religions and economies<sup>8</sup>. If people want to save or destroy their language and culture, that is their right. However,

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leaders need to understand and educate the population of dangers of acculturation. Ultimately, it is the people who decide, at least in the so-called democracy of ours.

The long-term viability of any language will be endangered unless it retains some territories in which the speakers of that language are a majority. Unless people are forced financially to move and assimilate into a new culture, most people prefer to stay where they are and continue doing what they have always done. It's the natural tendency for cultures to be cohesive and exclusive. That is the reason why we have so much diversity in terms of castes and tribes in *Bhaarat* - the most ancient and diverse cultural conglomerate surviving today. That is because "*humans display forms of social behavior that favor living in small groups, such as rewarding cooperation, punishing those who deviate from the norms, and being wary of outsiders*"<sup>9</sup>. So, the action has to be in the native land and among those communities.

Telugu language is fortunate to have at least one state with three distinct regions of Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana where the speakers of various Telugu dialects thrive<sup>10</sup>. In the past, native languages have been wrested from people by colonial domination. However, as English dominates the day-to-day affairs of people, the whole state is becoming Tenglish, displacing Telugu speakers. In addition to advantages of smaller states, as understood by everybody, if Andhra Pradesh is divided into three states, they would have an opportunity to officially communicate in Telugu. Telugu becomes an interstate language with three states supporting it. Similar to Hindi in the north that has several states to support it, Telugu will flourish.

As a community shifts to a new language, features of the ancestral language may appear in the new language, in this case Tenglish. However, it is foolish to think that it is Telugu, while the reality is that

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Telugu is dying. According to the US Census Bureau report based on census 2000, released in December 2004, Indians in America are the most fluent and comfortable English speakers, with 10.3 % saying they spoke only English at home, and 57.6 % saying they spoke English very well even if they spoke other languages at home. I bet more than 30% in Andhra Pradesh don't speak Telugu at home<sup>11</sup>! It is good for Indians in America, because America is an English-speaking state. But I don't think it is good in Andhra Pradesh. It's getting harder and harder for the millions of Telugus to hold a conversation in the native Telugu language; not because the language is lacking in vocabulary, but because people are forgetting their vocabulary and are replacing it with more prestigious English vocabulary, e.g., mummy, daddy, aunt, uncle, rice, curry, water, dog, cat etc. This has to be arrested.

However, we are not alone and this malady is not limited to Telugu only. It happened before to other languages and new languages developed such as Yiddish, Ebonics etc., and it is happening to various languages that are forced to live in societies dominated by another language, due to migration. Spanish is metastasizing into something altogether new language known as Spanglish, which in large part is the result of sweeping demographic changes due to illegal immigration of uneducated Hispanics across the borders, supported by helpless capitalists to save the struggling American economy. While the Spanish language is still thriving in Spain, a new daughter language of Spanish is taking over English America. Soon there may be many languages that are daughters of Spanish dominating the world. Spanglish is used predominantly by people of Hispanic descent in the United States and the Latin America. Spanish-linguists and the supporters of the Royal Academy of the Spanish Language in Madrid deem Spanglish a fast spreading cancer to their precious and centuries-old tongue in Spain. However, there is a big distinction between Spanglish and Telugu. What is happening in *Bhaarat* is different. They are creating new languages all right, but not in other countries. They are replacing their languages with Indlishes. The

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OUR CULTURE

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heartbreaking thing is that the Indlish cancer strikes Indians in their own native land, destroying their culture. Well, it is not the fault of Indians. This is a sad legacy of the Islamic and Christian colonization and slavery of *Bhaarat* for over a millennium, which continues today in the form of cultural inferiority complex.

We have to develop a sound bilingual policy in which people are fluent in at least two languages, viz., mother tongue and English. Bilingualism is not a facility or a talent, but it is a result of being forced to function in two distinct languages having different vocabularies from a young age, when it is nothing but a play for the child. Babies arrive into this world as world-citizens, ready to adapt the language of their parents. Whatever language babies hear becomes a permanent part of their life. Learning language begins surprisingly very early, even when the baby is in the womb. At around 6 months they start to identify the special sounds of their mother tongue<sup>12</sup>.

Bilingualism means an equal ability and skills to communicate in two languages. This includes an ability to hold conversation without jumping back and forth between two languages for lack of vocabulary to express oneself or due to laziness. Some linguists think that bilingualism is the ability to speak pure at least in one language (especially in the mother tongue) and some working knowledge in an international language. It is very important to realize that bilingualism doesn't mean mixing two languages. A true bilingual society retains its culture and at the same time has an opportunity to do business with the rest of the world in an additional language as well. Every linguistic nationality in this world has to comprehend and appreciate bilingualism, including Americans whose language has become the world language, at least for the sheer potential mental health and intellectual benefits<sup>13</sup>.

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 -Kathopanisad



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For Indians, the window to the world is English. In addition, it is not only one of the official languages of the whole Indian continent ever since the British colonized it, but also the legal and scientific language of the continent. Today, with the superiority of American economy and business, English became inescapable for the rest of the world too. In European countries like Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, etc., approximately 80% of the population is fluent in English. In countries like Russia, France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal etc., teaching English is a big business. English has acquired the status of the International Scientific Language, a single language of the wisdom of the world. Whether we like it or not, English is the most understood and sought-after language anywhere in the world, thanks to the technological and scientific preeminence of the United States of America, the globalization of science and economy and past English colonization. Over the next six years, 15% of information technology jobs required by U.S. companies will be done in *Bhaarat*, a new report predicted in December 2004. The new AMR report estimated that the Indian IT labor force would be larger than 3 million by 2010, and half of the workers would be performing jobs for U.S. companies. AMR projected that by 2010, savings from offshore outsourcing would spark an added \$30 billion per year in new investments from U.S. companies. So, we ignore English at our own peril. Yet, we should never forget our mother tongue wherever we are and especially in our native land, the cradle of our unique culture. It doesn't matter if I forget Telugu in America and create Tenglish, but it is a disaster if Telugus forget Telugu in Teluguland. Spanglish in America may be a new language species that is bound to undermine English, but if it replaces Spanish in Spain it is definitely a disaster for Spanish language and culture in Spain.

We have to educate the general population about the mechanisms that cause language shift. In addition to the pressures on adults to speak English themselves, they are naturally concerned for the welfare of their children. It is impossible to be a banker, doctor or lawyer without using English as the working language,

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especially in cities like Hyderabad. Telugu Indian parents know that their children must speak English to get good jobs. Many Telugu Indians also think that their children have to emigrate to English-speaking countries if they are to get good jobs. Therefore, English is absolutely essential. However, to think that Telugu has little practical value is suicidal. Unfortunately, many educated as well as uneducated Telugu Indians associate Telugu with poverty and regard it as an obstacle to social and economic advancement for their children. The adoption of a Western lifestyle, which everyone desires due to the perceived inferiority of their own lifestyle, brings increasing contact with English. All these things force Telugus to downgrade Telugu (bad karma) and embrace English (good karma). This doesn't mean avoid technological advancement and live in caves. We need computers, but not English vocabulary to replace Telugu words for mother and father. We need both English and Telugu, but not Tenglish. Tenglish is a cancer for both English and Telugu and also to our mind.

In addition, young people are continuing to leave the villages, for higher education, careers and excitement to cities like Hyderabad where English is more valuable than Telugu, which is very harmful to Telugu. Parents are not prepared to sacrifice their children's welfare to the ideal of Telugu revival or survival, and therefore many do not raise them with Telugu as their first language any more even in Andhra Pradesh. It is understandable in America, if Telugus raise their children, English as their first language, because English is the language of America and we adopted this country and language. But, it is unpardonable if we do this in Andhra Pradesh, simply because the language of Andhra Pradesh is Telugu, but not English.

Strengthening of the local economy is one of the solutions to the problem, so that local people do not have to leave their villages to find work. Providing higher education and vocational training in Telugu is a

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must to achieve this. Rural Indians toil in their lands or perform casual labor on other people's land in about 680,000 villages in *Bhaarat*. Agriculture in *Bhaarat* is highly fractured and uneconomical due to smaller plots and outdated farming mechanisms. More than a third of rural population earns income from non-farming endeavors. Yet only 9 million Indians are employed in manufacturing, while 100 million Chinese are employed in this sector in China. However, it appears that in rural *Bhaarat*, only women are working in the fields and men are emigrating to towns and cities for work<sup>14</sup>. Despite the fact that Indian policy makers believe in village and want to keep small plots and uneconomic outdated farming methods hoping to keep populations poor and rural, rural *Bhaarat* is migrating to cities. This is inevitable. So, we need to concentrate our efforts not only in rural *Bhaarat*, but also in urban *Bhaarat* and make sure that the mother tongue is respected.

Furthermore, the attitude of people that Telugu speakers are uneducated has to change, especially in the urban setting. It is very popular in Andhra Pradesh to use English words in day-to-day affairs for it is cool and prestigious. This attitude can only change when we develop a healthy respect for our own culture. It is easier said than done, due to the flawed government policies on one hand and hundreds of years of slavery of the whole culture on the other hand.

People seem to eat the same foods, watch the same films, and drive the same cars everywhere in the world today. International forces like Globalization, Westernization, Christianization, Islamization etc., have been eroding the pride and dignity of native cultures all over the world. As a result, today, languages are being lost at a rate of one per day due to this globalization of economy, religion and culture. However, these are the global forces with tremendous power and influence with which we have to reckon and reconcile with; not only because they are invincible, but also because they help develop and raise the

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levels of health standards and alleviate poverty in the world. So, in this global economy and information age, it is impossible to insulate us from such international forces. It is very easy to be swept away by these forces into a homogeneous human mass or attempt to totally insulate us in communism or conservatism, rather than interact with the force and hold our ground against the tide. Thus, it is imperative that every culture develops mechanisms to withstand the onslaught of these global forces - the necessary evils. We need tremendous courage, resourcefulness and will power to withstand and interact with these international forces and yet retain the culture. This is a major challenge facing every culture today. We cannot take shelter in a Darwinian competition for "survival of the fittest"<sup>15</sup> and ignore the death of cultures. Instead, we should intervene and try to make our culture fit to survive. Just like we would help a disabled or diseased person survive in this world, we must protect the cultures dying due to the diseases like inferiority complex and intellectual laziness. We must develop methods and mechanisms to protect the weak and endangered species, peoples, and cultures.

Moreover, just as there are economic reasons for language suppression and destruction, there are economic reasons for supporting and protecting a dying language. The global economy would benefit from having more multi-lingual people because they will be more productive working in their mother tongues. But, this is only possible when the languages/cultures are proud like French or Tamil.

My cousin in Hyderabad asks, "what is the purpose of Telugu?" Even street vendors and rikshawallahs in towns and villages speak Tenglish nowadays. It saddens me to note that Telugu has no purpose for 75-80 million strong Telugus in Andhra Pradesh. Some people argue that every living language has to influence and be influenced by other languages. Languages give and take vocabulary. Usually they point to English, which heavily borrowed from various European languages and the colonized languages. It is

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true, but English borrowed words from various languages to increase the vocabulary. English usually does not replace English words with new vocabularies and forget English words altogether, like Telugu does. Forgetting vocabulary is not a sign of growth, but a symptom of a debilitating disease that leads to death.

By immersing the youngsters in the language of their parents, we can save the language and thereby the culture. It seems more difficult to do this in Hyderabad than in America nowadays. My daughter speaks only her mother tongue at home, while my friends across the street use only Tenglish or English at home with their children. I notice the same attitude in *Bhaarat* also. My sister in Hyderabad uses Tenglish at home, and argues that for now my niece has to learn English day-to-day vocabulary and use in her conversation with her mother. It is very competitive even in kindergarten you know, especially in *Bhaarat*! Interestingly, with greater recognition and celebration of cultural differences, today, immigrant Americans are more likely to maintain and share their ancestral language with their children and to promote bilingualism as a reflection of ethnic pride and identity.

The concept of bilingualism and teaching two languages at a young age is not among Indians in general and in Andhra Pradesh in particular. My friends insist that they would teach their children Telugu later! One persistent argument against teaching two languages to a two-year-old is that it confuses the child. You may not believe it, but it is true that the daycare centers in Andhra Pradesh admonish the parents and ask them to stop teaching Telugu at home, if they want their children to succeed in kindergarten! If you spoke Telugu, you have to wash your mouth with soap! Without a doubt, this kind of attitude discourages people from speaking the native language in schools in Andhra Pradesh and *Bhaarat*. I think this is perverted and wrong.

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हमारी संस्कृति (HAMAAREE SANSKRITI)

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ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्॥

Issue 84

Chief Editor: డాక్టర్ శ్రీనివాసరావు వేపచేదు | डॉक्टर श्रीनिवासरावु वेपचेदु | Dr. Sreenivasarac Vepachedu

Contrary to widely held beliefs in Andhra Pradesh and among Indians, most researchers agree that a child who is exposed to two languages at an early age and simultaneously, will naturally learn to use both languages<sup>16</sup>. In general, speech-language problems are less likely to occur when both languages are introduced early and simultaneously. Children may also experiment with the two languages to express themselves in specific settings. For example, one language may be identified with daddy (foreign tongue) and the other with mommy (mother tongue): this has been working very well for us so far. Or one language used for home and family and the other for school and activities outside the home. This should work very well for Andhra Pradesh as the successive state and central governments have been resolutely working either in Hindi or English only, to eliminate the state and local languages from the mainstream, with a shrewd intent to make *Bhaarat* speak one language, perhaps Hindi, for the unity of the Union.

Even more absurd is that while people are struggling to learn two languages and are giving up on their mother tongue, most of the state governments have the so-called "three-language" formula! Many policy makers argue that we need to learn Hindi. They argue that the money spent on Hindi is from Central Government, so it doesn't hurt Telugus to learn a third language. They point out the advantages of learning many languages. This argument goes counter to the argument presented by my cousin above. But, the same people would argue for the three-language formula! We cannot even handle one language, but we have lofty goals of mastering three languages. There is a saying in Telugu, "*uTTikekka lEnamma swargaanikekkutundaTa*," meaning roughly, "a person who cannot climb on to attic desires to rise to the heaven!" Actually, I would like to learn Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, and a couple of African languages as well, if I can. The father of Indian reforms and the modern Indian economy, the [Former Prime Minister Venkatanarasimharao Pamulaparti \(PV\)](#)<sup>17</sup> was a polyglot who had knowledge in 17 languages. So, it is not impossible to master many languages. But first, don't we have to

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Thou dazzling fount of life-persuasive light!  
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Swift became that burst too potent on the sight!  
This radiant type of strength and youth!  
Glowing eternal.

He alone shines!  
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!  
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!  
- Kathopanishad



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Steering forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!  
Praised by singers, my God Savitar!  
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learn our mother tongue enough to maintain a trivial conversation at the dining table without indulging in bombastic English words for cup, curd, curry, glass, milk, plate, rice, spoon, etc.?

Other Indian languages are disappearing as well. The native speakers are dying off (by adopting a new language). The Indian national languages cannot compete against English, which is pervasive through television and other forms of pop culture. The native language is going to be gone if we don't do something. The best people to learn a language are kids in the developmental stage of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.

Unlike other dominant languages, Telugu doesn't have books to teach Telugu to foreigners. We didn't even have a thesaurus in Telugu until recently. An American citizen (Rao Vemuri) compiled the only one I know of<sup>18</sup>! If you visit any bookstores or music-stores anywhere in the world you would find lullabies and nursery songs in the local language, but not in Andhra Pradesh. Native Telugus have to do more.

To preserve the language, recording everyday Telugu conversations on audio and videotapes, popularizing Telugu conversation - not Tenglish conversation - then transcribing and translating the conversations for the spread of Telugu globally has to be taken up. It has to include people engaging in various vocations, preparing dinner, eating meals, and even playing games.

Telugu is the official language of the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, it is not implemented strictly. Government departments and agencies, including the central government institutions stationed in the state, should set up special units staffed by fluent Telugu-speakers (**not Tenglish speakers**) to serve the people. The working language of the state should be Telugu and every Telugu has to promote Telugu,

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(not Tenglish). A bilingual state is a state where the principal institutions provide services in two languages to citizens. Unfortunately, Andhra Pradesh is a tetra-lingual state (English, Hindi, Telugu and Urdu) with a three-language formula and, paradoxically, **fails miserably to provide services in Telugu**. Whatever, they claim to have provided in Telugu is only a lip service. Every document received by my mother in Hyderabad from any government institution or private institution or utility services requires help of an English educated neighbor because of the extensive use of **English and Tenglish**. It appears as if the state governments have conspired with the central government to eliminate the state languages and do business in Hindi and English only.

Ultimately, it all depends on native populations in their own native lands, e.g., **Telugus living in Andhra Pradesh**. Unless the attitude of the people and the governments change, the collective march of our languages and cultures toward extinction is inevitable. I am afraid, the Indian cultures may be on the path to eradication in a short while, unless they do something about it now along with their languages<sup>19</sup>. Let us hope the international seminar on **'Telugu culture and performing arts: philosophical dimensions'** that is being organized by Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University from December 29, 2004 will have some impact.

## RWFERENCES AND NOTES<sup>20</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Accelerated Evolution of Nervous System Genes in the Origin of Homo sapiens, *Cell* (Volume 119, Issue 7, Pages 1027-1040 (29 December 2004) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2004.11.040>; [https://ac.els-cdn.com/S0092867404011432/1-s2.0-S0092867404011432-main.pdf?\\_tid=52446d0b-038a-4f20-95c0-7e4792f0bf69&acdnat=1535851292\\_98d9a8d3dbf77d15478f3bd89e1f0d3](https://ac.els-cdn.com/S0092867404011432/1-s2.0-S0092867404011432-main.pdf?_tid=52446d0b-038a-4f20-95c0-7e4792f0bf69&acdnat=1535851292_98d9a8d3dbf77d15478f3bd89e1f0d3)

<sup>2</sup> When I was in the 12th grade (1980), my zoology teacher Ramakrishnareddy, teaching a course in evolution, said that humans would have larger heads and smaller bodies in the future. I was skeptical. How can a woman with a small body give birth to a baby with a large head? Here is a bottleneck for our brain evolution - our birth canal and skull size. However, [Dr. Bruce Lahn](#), a professor of human genetics at the University of Chicago, thinks that *slowly and*

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ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय | तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय | मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय | ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

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steadily vaginal birth is giving way to *c-section in the developed world*. We need not be surprised to see richer countries with people with larger heads with more disk space and RAM, i.e., more intelligence. I am still skeptical. Larger heads don't mean more intelligence. We really don't need larger heads to be more intelligent, if we go by the evolution of computer. Further, a baby's head is smaller than an adult head indicating that we don't need larger heads at birth. What we need is more learning and training at a young age.

[Adaptive evolution of ASPM, a major determinant of cerebral cortical size in humans. Hum Mol Genet. 1;13\(5\):489-94. Epub 2004 Jan 13. 14722158;](#)

Reconstructing the evolutionary history of microcephalin , a gene controlling human brain size, Human Molecular Genetics, Volume 13, Issue 11, Pages 1139-1145 (1 June 2004) <https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddh126>.

<sup>3</sup> See also [Indian Languages](#)

<sup>4</sup> See also [Indigenous Languages in Distress](#), Globalization: [Threat to the Global Cultural, Linguistic, and Biological Diversity](#)

<sup>5</sup> See also [Providence](#)

<sup>6</sup> Graddol, The Future of Language, Science, Vol. 303, Issue 5662, pp. 1329-1331 (27 February 2004)

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/303/5662/1329/tab-pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Democles (dem-uh-kleez), a flatterer who extolled the happiness of king Dionysius of Syracuse, was seated on a throne with a sword suspended over his head by a single hair to show him the perilous nature of the king's happiness. Thus, the idiom sword of Damocles refers to any situation with imminent harm or disaster.

<sup>8</sup> See also [The Cultural Fate of Hyderabad State](#), and note 5 above.

<sup>9</sup> Mark Pagel, a professor of evolutionary biology in the School of Animal and Microbial Sciences at the University of Reading in England

<sup>10</sup> See note 7

<sup>11</sup> It may be more. Approximately 20-25% of the population is Muslim and they prefer to speak Urdu, a hybrid Islamic language with Arabic script. Most of the educated Telugus speak only Tenglish nowadays. So, the Telugu speakers are dwindling in the state.

<sup>12</sup> See also [Benefits of Bilingualism, Mana Sanskriti, Issue 78 \(Special\) \(July 2004\)](#) (<http://www.vepachedu.org/manasanskriti/bilingual.html>)

<sup>13</sup> See note 11

<sup>14</sup> Cure for Indian's Rural Woes Lies in Ability to Escape the Farm, Edward Luce, Financial Times, 12/7/2004.

<sup>15</sup> Survival of the fittest <https://www.britannica.com/science/survival-of-the-fittest>

<sup>16</sup> See note 11, [Benefits of Bilingualism](#)

<sup>17</sup> Please read PV's message in Telugu for Telugus regarding Telugu at <http://www.vepachedu.org/language-1.htm>.

Obituary: Prime Minister Venkatanarasimharao Pamulaparti (PV) was the father of modern Indian economy, who changed the direction of the country for good and opened up opportunities for Indians they never had before - the possibility of becoming rich and a super power.

PV was the first politician from outside the Nehru-Gandhi family to head a Government at the Centre for a full five-year term. He was also the first Telugu Indian and the first South Indian to become the Prime Minister of *Bhaarat*. It was just a disaster, the reluctance of an Italian widow to take the reins of the empire, fractured but ruthless Congress politicians who needed a mild puppet, and strange fate and circumstances that catapulted a retired Telugu Brahmin intellectual, an impossible choice, into the throne. Once in the throne, he shattered the dreams of ruthless Congress politicians by changing the fate of the Union, who never forgave him, even after his death. He deviated from Nehru-Gandhi socialistic policy and brought shame to the Congress Party and the

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dynasty by single handedly making a U-turn to make friends with Israel and America at a critical time in the world history and opened up the country to become a (possible) super power. He helplessly or otherwise oversaw the fall of an old dilapidated mosque built by brutal dictator on a revered temple that resulted in the possibility of a real democracy from communist style one party dynasty rule, which was never forgiven by the dynasty. He was also the first Brahmin Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and may be the last. He was also the first Brahmin ruler of a southern Indian kingdom in two millennia. Telugu people would never have elected a mild and lonely Brahmin intellectual as their Chief Minister. PV was simply imposed on Telugus and fractured Congress politicians for a short period by the ruthless dictator from New Delhi - Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He was also the first Prime Minister who didn't have a popular base and a support group in his own state (because he belonged to the Brahmin caste). He was also the first Prime Minister to be humiliated by frivolous law suits from which he was exonerated after about 8 years of trials in various courts. A household survey released by Transparency International on 17 December 2002, reported high levels of corruption in public institutions in South Asia. Of the seven major public institutions, the police emerged as the most corrupt in all five countries surveyed (Bangladesh, Bhaarat, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). The judiciary was identified as the second most corrupt area in all countries except Pakistan, where land administration and the tax authorities were identified as the second and third most corrupt areas respectively. Land administration figures prominently in the list of the most corrupt sectors in four out of the five countries. The TI report identifies high levels of corruption encountered by citizens attempting to access seven basic public services, at <http://www.transparency.org/surveys/index.html>. PV passed away on December 23, 2004 and became the first Prime Minister to be cremated outside New Delhi contrary to the tradition despite his wish to be cremated along with other Prime Ministers in New Delhi, where he lived for the past 30 years - a special humiliation bestowed upon him, a life-long Congress Party servant, by Sonia Gandhi and Congress Party for his service. Although Congress party denies any role to PV in the Indian nuclear program, PV is the architect of Bhaarat's nuclear program and when the history of Bhaarat's nuclear programme is written, PV will figure prominently. He also achieved another dubious distinction after death - he was the first eminent leader of the largest democracy in the world who was humiliated during his own cremation ceremony by an utter disrespect to his corpse, which would be a crime in the United States of America. His half cremated corpse and utter disregard shown by everybody to the sanctity of the cremation of the PM was shown in mass media. The extraordinary humiliation and death of this humble servant -- who knew 17 languages, had a record number of firsts and accomplishments as a PM, who was considered modern Chanakya who guided Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and rescued the Congress Party that is bereaved by the assassination of its dynastic head and the country to provide a stable government and a new direction -- are buried in an extraordinary and rare tsunami that hit the Indian Continent killing in one day more than 150,000 people (more than the 100,000 dead in Iraq in the past one year, man made disaster) in more than twelve countries, reaching as far as Africa from Indonesia and killing even European and American tourists (please visit to learn how to help the victims of tsunami: [http://www.interaction.org/disaster/guide\\_giving.html](http://www.interaction.org/disaster/guide_giving.html)). When a live PV maintained "samadrishti (equanimity)" through the ups and downs, it is not the time for Indians to worry about the honor and humiliation of PV in the face of an unprecedented devastation, (a blessing in disguise conveniently for PV haters and the dynasty).

<sup>18</sup> Telugu Thesaurus by Rao Vemuri, <http://www.ecofoundation.org/Dictionary%20Review.pdf>.  
<sup>19</sup> See note 5 Providence. Life and death are inevitable in this universe.  
<sup>20</sup> FURTHER READING:  
 1) Neurolinguistic Aspects of Bilingualism, Michel Paradis

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శ్రీ వేపచేడు విద్యా పీఠము

May the golden-eyed Savitar come hither!  
 Stepping forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!  
 Praised by singers, my God Savitar!  
 Stepped forth and never missed his place!  
 He steps forth the splendor of the sky the wide!  
 Seeing, far-shining, the shining wanderer!  
 -Rig Veda. vii. 65

# VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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ॐ भूर्भुवः स्वः तत्सवितुर्वरेण्यं भर्गो देवस्य धीमहि धियो यो नः प्रचोदयात्॥

Issue 84

Chief Editor: డాక్టర్ శ్రీనివాసరావు వేపచేడు | डॉक्टर श्रीनिवासरावु वेपचेडु | Dr. Sreenivasarao Vepachedu

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dvau imau purushau koke ksharah cha ksharaeva cha  
 ksharah sarvaani bhootaanikootastho kshara uchryate

Issue 84      5106 కలి కాలము/Kali Era | 2062 విక్రమార్క కాలము/Vikramarka Era | 1926 శాలివాహన కాలము/Salivahana Era  
 స్వస్తి శ్రీ తారణ నామ సంవత్సరము/स्वस्ति श्री तारन नाम संवत्सर/Swasti Sri Tarana Year  
 మార్గశిర మాసము /मार्गशिरा महीन/ Margasira Month  
 JANUARY 2005 (Publication Date 29 December 2004)

O Sun God, Savitr!  
Thou dazzling fount of life-persuasive light!  
Sublimest mystery speeding from afar!  
Swift became that burst too potent on the sight!  
This radiant type of strength and youth!  
Glowing eternal.

He alone shines!  
All luminaries get illuminated by His Illumination!  
The whole Universe is enlightened by His light!  
- Kathopanishad



శ్రీ వేపచేడు విద్యా పీఠము

May the golden-eyed Savitar come hither!  
Stepping forth he rises from the lap of the dawn!  
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हमारी संस्कृति (HAMAAREE SANSKRITI)

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There are two kinds of personality in this world, the mortal and the immortal. The personality of all creatures is mortal. The personality of God is said to be immortal. It is the same forever. The Bhagavadgita, Chapter XV, verse 16.

*iti guhyatamam shaastra idam uktam mayaa nagha  
etad buddhva buddhimaan syaat krtakrtyaas cha bhaarata!*

O Indian! This is the most sacred of all the truths I have taught you. He who has realized it becomes truly wise. The purpose of his life is fulfilled. The Bhagavadgita, Chapter XV, verse 20.  
Then why worry and act at all? Because, so long as we lead embodied lives we cannot escape from action.

*nityatam kuru karma tvam karma jyaayo hy akarmanah  
sarirayaatraa pi cha te na prasidhyed akarmanah*

Activity is better than inertia. Act, but with self-control. If you are lazy, you cannot even sustain your own body. The Bhagavadgita, Chapter III, verse 8.

*saktaah karmay avidvaamso yatha kuruvanti bhaarata  
kuryaad vidvaams tathaa saktas chikeershur lokasmgraham*

O Indian, the ignorant work for the fruit of their action, the wise must work also without desire pointing their feet to the path of the duty to maintain the world-order and diversity. The Bhagavadgita, Chapter III, verse 25.

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ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय । तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय । मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय । ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥



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 2062 [Vikramarka Era](#), taarana Year, maagha month  
 2005 AD, March

## Krishnamurtisastri Sripada (1866-1960)

Krishnamurtisastri was born in 1866 in a Brahmin family of *Kousika gotra*. He learned Sanskrit and Vedas, as per the Brahmin tradition. In those days, Brahmins used to learn their native tongue Sanskrit and the religious texts Vedas. Despite the opportunities, he avoided the formal Western education. Sripada family shunned English and formal [education\\*](#) to the extreme and as a result Krishnamurtisastri did not even know the difference between a yard and a square yard ([ref](#)).

Krishnamurtisastri was an expert in avadhana, a form of literary art. He received several titles such as ashtaavadhaani, sataavadhani, adhunaatana kavimitrudu etc. He wrote more than hundred books, of which thirty were dramas. He considered kalabhaashini as the best among his dramas. His drama bobbili yuddham was very famous. His dramas included contemporary issues like the freedom movement, e.g., Tilak maharaja and Gandhi vijayam. His prabandhas include vijayalakshmi vilaasamu. He also translated Sanskrit Raamayana, Bhaarata and Bhaagavata, an amazing feat for one person. There is no other Telugu who translated all the three Sanskrit epics into Telugu language. He opened his own printing press to publish journals such as kalaavati and vajraayudha. He also wrote poetry on Telugu people entitled, aandhraabhydayam. He adorned the "State Poet" office. The Indian federal government honored him as a Sanskrit Poet. His biography was written in English and Telugu. He wrote his autobiography "srikrishna sveeyacharitramu" in Sanskrit and Telugu. He was also interested in extracurricular activities like horse riding and traveled widely. He received many awards, all without knowing any English or formal education.

\* Today, both Brahmin and non-Brahmin Telugus are emphasizing learning English at the cost of Telugu. And majority of Brahmins forgot Sanskrit and Vedas altogether. The feeling that "there is nothing to learn in Telugu" has been there for ages in Telugu-land. As a matter of fact, there is nothing to learn in Telugu, if one wants to

excel in this modern global village, due to the policies of successive governments. As a result, everybody is crazy about Western education in English today, which was not acceptable during the British Raj, at least for some orthodox Brahmins and was unavailable for majority of Telugus. The concept of learning two languages at a young age has no place in the Telugu society even today. Consequently, Telugu is relegated to purgatory in Hyderabad, the capital city of the Telugu State. There is a real threat to the existence of Telugu like never before because literacy is growing and "literate" means "one who speaks Tenglish". [Bilingualism](#), knowing two languages equally well, is the only way out, unless Telugus accept and replace dying Telugu with bombastic and high class Tenglish as their language. While [Brahmins](#) have to follow trilingualism and learn Sanskrit and Vedas as well, if they want to keep their heritage, just like Telugu Muslims learn Urdu and Koran.

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Source: *naa vaangmaya mitrulu*, Kameswararao Tekumalla

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[Om! Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya, Mrityorma Amritamgamaya, Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih!](#)

[\(Om! Lead the world from wrong path to the right path, from ignorance to knowledge, from mortality to immortality and peace!\)](#)

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[Hosted by Dr. Ramesh Cherivirala](#)

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