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तन्त्रीवाद्यं – तन्त्रज्ञानं – भवतारणसाधनम्

Tambura – Technology – Liberation

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Abstract

Happiness is the ultimate goal of human life. There are two types of happiness namely material happiness and spiritual happiness. The first one will end when a new ambition arises in mind, but the latter never ends.

In today's world of technology, right from ordering things from the shop through mobile applications such as Zomato Blinkit, etc., till the robots that make our work easier by providing us a great relaxation, *'are the human minds really enjoying happiness in life'* is a subject matter that is to be put into analysis, which is the need of the hour, because this ease through technology should not swallow the muscular power and brain power of human beings like a slow poison.

This paper aims to convey that utility of any innovations when utilized in a systematic or proper way can keep human beings in safe hands. If not, the human being become the puppet in the hands of technology.

Based on this idea, a comparative study on Tantra Shastra that is technology and Tantrii - the Tambura, has been made by confluence of the ideas of intelligent quotient, emotional quotient and spiritual quotient, for material happiness and spiritual happiness called bhoga and yoga in the language of ancient scriptures.

Key words : Tambura, Technology, Confluence. Tantra, Happiness, Life

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Necessity of Artificial Intelligence and Tambura

In this modern era, the Artificial Intelligence has become part and Parcel of life, without which life seems impossible to carry on like a Tambura for a Musician. Tambura is a String instrument, that is played to maintain the Shruti for a musician throughout the concert.





The four main parts of tambura are

1. Four strings
2. Two Bridges
3. Tuning plug and Beads
4. The Threads

1. The Four strings and Necessity of AI

There are four strings in tambura the first string is called Panchama at middle octave. The other two strings which has a same frequency is called Saarana and Anusaarana, at higher octaves. The last string is called Mandra at lower octave. The four strings play only two swaras SA and PA called Prakruti Swaras. From there two swaras, seven more swaras emerges and combination of seven swaras in several patterns have bloomed the beautiful heavenly world called ‘the world of Music’. Same way, the technology and AI has given rise to the world of entertainment, comfort and knowledge.

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Tamburam produces a melodies sound when all the strings are set to perfect frequencies. Likewise, utility of '*Artificial Intelligence'* aligned with '*Natural Intelligence'*, will give access to excel in life.

2. *The two bridges of Tambura and AI- the stepping stone*

In this era, everything is at the tip of fingers. AI has grown like a banyan tree with branches such as, Microsoft Copilot, Perplexity AI, Claude, Grok, Meta AI and many more. AI provide information and guidance in fields of communication, content creation, planning, organizing, automation, health care, robotics, education and what not. Let us take a simple example. When we ask a question to Chat GPT regarding diet, it has a lot of information, how to do a diet, timing, place, quality, quantity etc. Even after following the instructions provided by it, still results observed does not appear satisfactory. Means to say, something is missing in the data. That something is none other than '***Emotional Quotient' and 'Spiritual Quotient'***. These two aspects can be considered as '***BRIDGES*** without which the entire system drops down.

Purandara Dasa in a composition says – Tamburi Mitidava Bhavaabdhi Daatidava

ತಂಬೂರಿ ಮೀಟಿದವ ಭವಾಬ್ಧಿ ದಾಟಿದವ which means

one who plays tambura will cross the ocean of Samsara that is cycle of births and deaths to attain moksha. These lines prove capacity, power and strength of tambura.



In Tambura, the four strings pass through and over two bridges. With the absences of these two bridges the whole concept of playing Tambura will collapse. Likewise, in this AI era
The two bridges that keep human life alive are Emotional Quotient' and 'Spiritual Quotient'

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2A. Emotional Quotient

There is something greater beyond mechanical playing of tambura. Sri Adi Shankaracharya says in his scripture Soundarya Lahari, a divine text that consists of 100 slokas on Sri Lalitha parameshwari that,

Japo jalph shilpam, sakalamapi ……yen me Virachitam

जपो जल्पः शिल्पं सकलमपि मुद्रा विरचन..... सपर्या पर्यायस्तवा भवतु येन्मे विलसितम्

Oh Devi, all that we talk become your Stuti or praising, gestures made by me in my all actions become mudra for you. Please consider my walk as your pradakshina. Let all that I eat become oblation of your yagna and so on. Means to say without emotions or feel anything done is a mere mechanical action, which may not lead to enjoy bliss.

Tantrik text Bhavanopanishad quotes in 30th sloka that

Bhaavanaayaah kriya upachaarah **भावानायाः क्रिया उपचारः**

Actions that are performed without emotions become just an act of worship without fetching the expected results.

Bhagavatita 9th adhyaya16th sloka says,

Patram, pushpam phalam tpyam yo me bhaktaa prayacchati

पत्रं पुष्पं फलं तोयं..... प्रयतात्मनः

I receive with love from those who offer me even just a leaf or flower or fruit or water with devotion. Purandara dasaru says in one of his composition

Kelano Hari taalano: taala Melagaliddu premavillada gaana

ಕೇಳನೊ ಹರಿ ತಾಳನೋ, ತಾಳ ಮೇಳಗಳಿದ್ದು ಪ್ರೇಮವಿಲ್ಲದ ಗಾನ

that which means, god does not enjoy music which is accompanied by instruments but does not have devotion. All these factors emphasize on emotional aspect.

Like this using emotional quotient one can raise to spiritual quotient even by playing a simple instrument tambura. This why probably Purandara dasa meant by saying

Tamburi mitidava bhavaabdhi daatidava **ತಂಬೂರಿ ಮೀಟಿದವ ಭವಾಬ್ಧಿ ದಾಟಿದವ**

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Instead of playing tambura mechanically, one can mentally feel the four strings of tambura as

	At Social Level			
	Pa	Sa Sa	Sa	Result
1	Dharma	Artha	Kaama	Moksha
2	Bhakti	Gnana	Vairaagya	Aatma Gnana
	At Yogic Level			
1	Dhaarana	Dhyaana	Samaadhi	Nirvikalpa
2	Pooraka	Kumbhaka	Rechaka	Naadi Shodhana
	At Mantra Level			
1	Udaatta	Swarita	Anudaatta	Shabda Brahma
2	Vaagbhava Koota	Madya koota	Shakti Koota	Yoga and bhoga
	At Tantra Level			
1	Pingala	Sushumna	Ida	Kundalini Awakening
2	Vishnu Granthi	Rudra Granthi	Brahma Granthi	Reach Sahasraara

Modern research in the field of emotional aspects.

Experiment shows that persons voice, pitch, frequency and acoustic pattern is affected by emotional status.

A) Journal of voice 2007 recorded that distinguishable acoustic profile were recognized with different emotional expressions.

B) Journal of acoustic society of America 2017 found acoustic differences in emotional expressions of 8 professional singers.

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2B. Spiritual Quotient

Let us consider the same example of diet, that we discussed above. According to ancient text, Food is not just a material thing that is given to body to gain energy. If so there does not lie a difference between an animal life style and a human life style. Instead an emotional and Spiritual touch is given to the material food through prayers before eating, such as

Annapoorne sadaapoorne…….bhikshaam dehi cha paarvati

Brahmaarpanam……brahma karma samaadhina

अन्नपूर्ण सद्दपूर्णे शंकरप्रानवल्लभे ज्ञानवैराग्य सिद्ध्यर्थं भिक्षां देहि च पार्वति

ब्रह्मार्पणं ब्रह्महविरब्रह्माग्नौ ब्रह्मनाहुतं ब्रह्मैव तेन गन्तव्यं ब्रह्म कर्म समाधिना (Spiritual Touch)

and a phrase of gratitude ‘Anna dhaataa Sukhi Bhava’. (Emotional Touch)

which means ‘let the one who gave us food stay happily’. This feel of gratitude, after the consumption of food, will raise the level of material food to higher realm that provide, mind, and brain, an extra ordinary strength, glow and inner happiness that is not only reflected in face but also enjoyed internally and the bliss can be experienced.

Emotional quotient rises us up to a happy life.

Spiritual quotient raises us up to a blissful life beyond the material happiness.

3. The Tuning plugs, Society and AI data

In this AI era, when we are getting everything at our wished place at wished time, many times it is obvious that a feeling arises,

why do I need a teacher when, AI can answer all my questions and give sufficient knowledge?
Why do I need an elderly person at home, when AI can guide me by clearing my confusions?
Why do I need a manpower when AI can do work of ten people?
Why do I need a companion or a family life, when AI is engaging me with entertainment?
Why do I need a kitchen when I can eat whatever I wish by ordering over available applications?
The list goes on.

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A subhashita says Acharyaat Paadam aadattee……kaalakramena cha.

आचार्यात् पादमादत्ते पादं शिष्यः स्वमेधया पादं सब्रह्मचारिभ्यः पादं कालक्रमेण च

Man is a part of Nature and how long one can lead a life keeping society aside. This Subhashita says, while learning, first quarter we learn from Guru, second quarter is learnt by our own intelligence, the third quarter we learn from our friends and the fourth quarter is learnt as the time pass through our own experience.

In this view, Society, family life, elders, friends, manpower, every thing is essential and inevitable, because these are the people in society who will tune our life and teach us lot of lessons. AI may provide as theoretical knowledge but Society teaches us practically.

In Tambura, the two main important parts in the process of tuning are ‘tuning plugs’ at the top and ‘beads’ at the bottom for four strings.





We learn a lot from everybody, right from elders to youngsters in society.

- The tuning plugs at the top are like advices and actions of the elders. As we discussed above - AI are like four stings
- The beads at the lower part of the strings are like new things that we are supposed to adopt from youngsters.
- The information that we secure from AI should be tuned with the help of advices from elders and exploration of new things from youngsters. By this

THE MUSIC OF LIFE BECOME MELODIOUS

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4. Jeevala- the Life Source and Artificial Intelligence verses Natural brilliance

The Vedas proclaim मातृ देवो भव Maatru Devo bhava…..

AI is developing in such a blasting manner, that one day a man, whom we call a human being may lose his Creativity as well as Humanity by depending on AI completely and becoming slave to Technology. If Creativity is lost, the charm of life is lost. If humanity is lost, everything is lost. It is the need of the hour to really worry about it. Hence, as we discussed above the data secured by AI should align with Viveka or Natural Brilliance for the fruitful results such as healthy and happy life.

We can never forget that, AI cannot replace the love and emotions of human beings. It is a hardcore reality that everybody should accept that

'A being can survive without food and water but not without Love, Empathy, Kindness and Humanity' .





In tambura, the fourth Important aspect is, ***The Thread***, that lies under the strings on the lower bridge part. The tuning of strings to accurate frequencies, passing through the bridges will not produce a melodies Naada until the tread is adjusted at the bridges, to the strings. This thread is none other than, the blessings of elders, gurus and divine power.

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Without the ***THREAD called JEEVAALA***, the tuning plug or the tuned strings or even the bridges, cannot give out Naada. Even though wealth, relationship, health, and heavenly facilities secured through AI and developing technologies etc. exist in life, yet the Love of Elders, Blessings of Guru and Grace of Divine can only bring the '***Melody in Life'***, which are real Jeevaala of Life.

5. Conclusion

Tambura appears to be a very simple instrument compared to any other musical instrument such as Veena, sitar, mridangam, violin, flute, etc. Yet, the great Santa Shishunaala Sharifa says,

"Taravalla Tagi ninna tambura swara baride baarisadiru tambura"

ತರವಲ್ಲ ತಗಿ ನಿನ್ನ ತಂಬೂರಿ ಸ್ವರ ಬರದೆ ಬಾರಿಸದಿರು ತಂಬೂರಿ

do not play tambura without knowing how to play it.

Tambura is a bridge for those who plays tambura to cross the ocean of birth and death and attain salvation.

Let us analyze tambura from both the above two perspectives. Tambura consists of four strings. Two strings play at same frequency. The remaining two, one at lower frequency and one at higher frequency. The properly tuned strings of tambura will give support and direction to musicians to begin the music at the particular frequency and will help to carry on till the end of the concert. If the frequency of the strings miss match, one cannot sink to the tune of tambura and listeners also feel uncomfortable to listen to such a song.

From the point AI and technology, AI is filled with lot of data but lack analysis. Analysis is possible only by human brain blended with emotional and spiritual aspect.

Tambura consisting of four strings give a melodious tune all together when aligned with particular frequency. Likewise, the excellent data and creativity provided by AI, when aligned with emotional and spiritual quotient can lead us to great height. The very need of the hour is to take care that, AI technology does not take control over our lives, instead should become a stepping stone to reach the heights in life to gain material and spiritual happiness.

- Technology of Google map can show the way for us, but we need to travel.
- AI may teach us the technique of pranayama but we need to practice it.
- AI has made our life easier but this ease should not comfort us to that extent that we fall asleep.

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Instead, this ease should become a stepping stone for us to gain material or spiritual happiness.

As the great yogi Shishunala Sharifa says, 'understand and play tambura' in the same manner, understanding the limits of AI, its advantages and disadvantages,

the confluence of the ancient wisdom with AI and Modern Technology, would bring in the happiness in life,

which is the ultimate goal of human birth.

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