



Life is survival: A fundamental guiding principle for setting human values

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Abstract

It is established that survival is the fundamental principle to exist life on earth. Therefore all the activities against survival are to be seen as threats to life. On the contrary the present systems of human life advocate to skew talents, efforts and resources for promoting industries and business which are in turn become major threats to life including mankind in the planet. The charm, beauty and value of life are aborted by the atrocities and perverted human behavior. Development of an appropriate model for individual and social life is envisaged in this paper which is recommended to base solely on survival principle. In this model survival credit score (SCS) will be accounted the positive characters and activities for every individual while scores will be negative from anti-survival performances. The national credit score can be created by adding all the survival scores of individuals and resources. The SCS is realistic, meritorious, positive and propitious to regulate the anti-survival activities of today's human beings, and it can be considered equal to money or currency earned in all respects for spending on needs. An appropriate development of SCS can eventually lead to the cashless transactions and currency free world.

Keywords: human value, life and survival, survival credit score, pollution, setting value, human centered economy

Introduction

People enjoy life in different ways and means but the entire existence of living body is housed on survival. Otherwise the crust of life is survival which is the fundamental definition not only for human beings but for all life forms on earth also. This fact is hardly taken seriously in routine life and development of human beings. Usually modern life is viewed and focused on creativity based, fantasy driven and business oriented heavily. Accordingly present life and activities including social systems and developmental perceptions are built on dreams and imaginary life concepts having very little link with real living system. It looks like the modern approaches in life are steered by conventional thoughts rather than clear and real understanding on human evolution and existence. Apparently such unrealistic approaches are becoming antagonistic to the survival principles of life. The net result is that life on earth is under serious threat today because of the damages from the activities of modern man, the scientifically known *Homo sapiens* (Fanchini & Mannucci, 2015^[8], Xu *et al*, 2020^[37], Heshmati, 2020^[12]).

This paper presents a new school of thought on individual life and social life systems, which is drawn on present scientific understanding of survival. Here the factor of survival is considered as the key point and benchmark in life for guiding every human activity. It is further explored a concept to set human values based on pro-survival and anti-survival activities for revolutionizing life.

Life is Survival

The basic and foremost definition of life is survival although life is interpreted in myriads dimensions. Scientifically life is survival

and every moment life is secured by fighting against anti-survival factors in and around without fail until death. Like all other life forms human beings face threats from internal and external forces continuously. The evolved bodily mechanisms of survival such as continuous cell multiplication to replace old ones in the body, cellular functions including cytological biochemistry, immunological reactions, maintenance of genetic principles, etc. are highly complex functions which are carried out invisibly to keep the body fit. Similarly different type of risks and threats are encountered by individual life during its existence and for the survival at every point of time. There are many natural threats and challenges to life, which are totally unpredictable and sometimes unavoidable too. Some threats to life are from within the species such as fights, war, attacks, murder, etc. while interspecies attacks also need to be resisted for existence. Importantly all such threats are encountered in life to survive in nature.

Since the origin of intelligent human beings on earth life has been a focus of research regarding its origin and end, and the outcome is infinite. There are strong beliefs on rebirth and life after death in many pockets of the world population despite supporting evidences are very little (Haraldsson, 2006)^[13]. When life is viewed from an angle to find the meaning (purpose), it is remained as a black box or a mystery in many respects.

In recent past modern science has unveiled voluminous important information about human body and its functions that substantially discredit many of the misunderstanding of life. But the confusion created over the period on life by the ancestors with several unscientific practices and artificial systems needs to be cleared from the minds of people for accepting the scientific realities.

While human beings are embarking on the illusionary world and life enjoyment its safe existence become adventitious, adventurous and highly risky. Therefore it is a high time to give importance for the survival of the human species and preserve their existence on earth.

It is reasonable to think that modern life style is pushing mankind to an artificial world and repelling the species from reality. Addiction to drugs, alcohol, fantasy world, money and ultra luxury are become the greatest attraction of life in the modern world. However, it is always ignored that these artificial life style is against the survival of human beings quite often. There are myths that people can shifts to moon by creating all facilities to live there. Obviously human survival will not possible there for generations because of the absence of proper habitat with associated life forms. In the process of evolution *Homo sapience* have inherited a very large pool of genes from their ancestors spanning to mammals, different kinds of animals of different phyla and even from the early life originated millions of years ago. There are important scientific evidences that human life is always under continuous interactions with the surrounding living world on earth that directly and indirectly contribute to its stable life and survival including genetic structure (Soga & Gaston, 2020) [29]. The coexistence of millions of microorganism in a healthy human alimentary canal that significantly influence human memory is one of the typical examples to recall (Willyard, 2021, DePaolo & Hanson, 2018) [36, 5].

It is estimated that 99 percent of the species lived on earth had become extinct over the period of last 3.5 billion years (Tarlach, 2018) [30]. A species is vanished either because it is incapable of living or unable to survive in the planet. In some cases the members of species are eliminated totally by predators or killed by other means including unavailability of food. There are strong evidences that human activities became a major threat to the life of countless species on earth (Tollenfson, 2019) [31]. Researchers report that the human population is also under serious threat for existence because of accelerated decline of natural life supporting environment (Snyder-Beattie *et al*, 2019) [28].

Human Advancements and Serious Consequences

Amazing developments and conveniences have made in the past by mankind through their collective wisdom and intelligent efforts. While scanning the advancements of modern human beings both positive and negatives impacts are appeared on the radar. Historically, there were two streams of progress; one was for the defense purpose and the other towards civilian life requirements. Under defense purpose the weapons and associated developments were made generally meant for attacking and defeating opponents. It was turned out as a world business opportunity since last century for several nations and that gained momentum to make larger returns. Even today larger chunks of the resources are spending for the military purpose globally (SIPRI, 2020) [27]. Gradually advancements become accessible to the civilian life as an offshoot from the military developments. Prominent developments are claimed in every spectrum of life such as air, water and land transportation sectors with human efforts. Communication systems and devices are much advanced today to make the life easy and comfortable. Healthcare sector is also advanced substantially to provide medicines, extend life span and other supporting services globally. The developments in agriculture, horticulture and dairy sectors are significantly

advanced today for the supply of better vegetables, fruits and food products. Significant progresses were made to cater industries associated with every sector listed above. The fuel production and energy storage devices are regarded as other remarkable achievements of modern man. Surprisingly the digital world, artificial intelligence and machine learning are competing now with their own inventors (Savage, 2020) [24].

Prior to the industrial advancements social developments had been evolved in the life of human beings initially as small groups and to larger groups, and communities eventually. The social challenges encountered by the mankind throughout the past were innumerable and unimaginable to trace at present. Later much more organized social structuring were evolved and formed at different regions simultaneously or independently. Social reforms were taken place in phase wise from dictatorship, slavery to democracy. Several political systems such as capitalism, democracy, communism, liberalism, etc. were experimented for balancing political powers and governance in the world (Graham, 1992) [11]. Naturally social structure and social life were not evolved on the basis of organized and logical patterns as the history reveals. Presumably human society had been driven by the diversified circumstances, experimentations and short term perception on life in a broad sense. By observing the life of modern man including the social sets up it is inclined to believe that human beings have been landed on earth as supernatural species. Otherwise human beings are still controlled by the age old belief that they are the special creation of god, and the planet earth is for their unlimited exploitation and enjoyment. However, there are strong scientific evidences now to prove that human beings are evolutionary product of nature and liable to natural laws of the planet. Perhaps the only exception is that human beings are more intelligent.

The positive developments made in the past for improving human life are endless to list but the adverse consequences are tens or even hundred times greater in many respects. Undoubtedly many activities of modern man at present are against the survival of life on earth. In the name of development several nations have built up manned space stations which are equipped for triggering nuclear warheads and devastating life. Beyond doubt this wrong life practices have led to a very serious damage to the planet and life. More than 97% of the land of earth is under the attack of human population (Lambert, 2021) [20]. About 50 percent of earth's perennial rivers and streams became seasonal because of human invasion on the planet. Natural habitat is widely damaged including deep sea because of increasing pollution and changing environment. Burning of fossil fuel has turned the earth warmer that challenges the survival of thousands of species. More than 50 percent increase of carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere since the time of industrialization (Galey, 2021) [10]. Similarly, pollutants to the tune of millions of tons are discharged to the atmosphere, oceans and soil every year that makes mother planet a dump yard (UNEP, 2015, Ferronato & Torretta, 2019) [31, 6]. Low lying lands in several parts of the world are sinking due to the rise of sea level and letting millions of habitat under water (Voosen, 2020) [34]. Exhaustive mining and earth modifications across length and breadth have converted earth to a grave yard. Mining operations around the world for metals including gold, copper, steel, granite, coal and petroleum have changed the terrain and structure of earth crust drastically (Agboola *et al*, 2020) [1]. Geologically stable and settled hills and

mountain ranges are currently under the threat of land slide and erosion due to hill cutting, deforestation and indiscriminate quarrying (Froude & Petley, 2018) ^[9]. There are endless catastrophic cases in the list related to human attack on earth.

There were serious concerns about environmental protection and nature conservation among scientists and researchers initially when people started attacking the planet unscrupulously and indefinitely in the name of growth, development and industry. By realizing the seriousness United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) was established in 1972 and initiated efforts to focus on environmental issues worldwide. Eventually environmental impact assessment (EIA) and environmental monitoring became mandatory for the implementation of projects especially larger ones (UNEP, 1987) ^[33]. Despite such initiatives the present environmental status ratify undoubtedly that whatever efforts made so far is inadequate and unsatisfactory to address the challenges to life. It is also important that there is no focus so far to assess the survival risks of mankind while pushing the life to adversity. The conclusion is that none of the remedial steps taken so far are found fit to address the survival threat to life today.

Human-centered Economics

Human role is getting diminished in the modern economy that drives human life, and it is the matter of great concern today. The alarming advancements in automation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, etc. dominate the manpower skills and services in every sector of life globally. Thus the economy becomes independent of human life and activity that results in unemployment, financial instability and social aberrations (Finotto, 2020) ^[7]. The insecurity factors in the management of the present monetary systems is another major hazard as it is independent and has no binding with individuals. Such a poor money flow and economic power concentration will ultimately result in fights against human life and survival. Therefore economists are researching worldwide to tide over the present trend and create human-centered economy (Slaus *et al*, 2013, Nagan, 2016, D'Amodio, 2020) ^[26, 22, 3].

In the present social systems some people are born rich to receive every resource while several others are deprived of any resources except the mother's milk. The inheritance of resources is looped easily in the present social system since the economic systems are neither life linked nor performance based on universally acceptable criteria (Piketty, Postel-Vinay & Rosentha, 2010) ^[23]. Along with fair means unfair earnings are also made possible to acquire currently by the people even out of anti-survival activities including robbery, theft, bribery, favouritism, etc., and that is easily passed to their next generations. The same old economic system originated on the concept of assigning human values to the dead assets like gold, silver, currency, land, buildings, etc., is being continued even now where life and economy are carried on parallel without mutual bindings. There is no distinction between assets of the eligible and ineligible in the existing economic practices because money from both looks the same. Therefore current system has serious limitations and is found insecure everywhere.

In essence the modern systems are not guided at present by human centric principles. Therefore the present artificial life systems need to be rebuilt on strong and real foundations that favour survival for avoiding catastrophic end to human species and the supporting lives on earth.

Setting human values

While gaining recognitions for human assets there are serious researches to develop suitable methods to assess the value of human beings effectively and accurately (Mehra, Maheshwari & Meena 2014, Delavaripour & Alishiri, 2016) ^[21, 4]. The categorical rejection of human beings as assets in the traditional balance sheet is relooked recently in many organizations (Kaye, 2012) ^[15].

Obviously it is difficult to classify people on the basis of resemblances and differences. The physical similarities are distinguished easily but the people looked alike are not identical in true sense. It is quite clear that the variation in every individual is engineered through evolution for their better chances of survival in nature. As a result every individual is born special and it is not easy to evaluate them by simple grouping or grading.

Setting human values might be a focus of research from long ago and it has various functions in the modern life (Khedikar, 2013, Kuchina, 2015) ^[16, 18]. There are several theories and methods for measuring human values but the major difficulty of setting human values is the absence of a bench mark or standard criteria (Catton Jr. 1954, Schwartz, 2006) ^[2, 25]. Currently used arbitrary grading criteria are not infallible, and are found unfit to apply universally.

Concept of survival based value setting

As detailed previously survival is the main principle of all lives on earth. Therefore life in the absence of survival concept is highly dangerous and meaningless. Serious demerits of such systems of society demand correction or introduction of an alternate method of setting value for life of human beings. In view of the distortions made over generations in human life a realistic value system is discussed here based on the concept of *survival as the central and guiding principle*. In this approach *survival is fixed as the bench mark or referral standard* for assessing values. Accordingly survival concept accounts survival credit score (SCS) for individuals based on the inherent potentials, acquired skills and contributions towards survival. In this the entire characters and activities of individuals are classified into two, those favoring survival (pro-survival) and the others against survival (anti-survival). The survival favouring activities get credits and those against survival are accounted for negative scores. Neutral characters and activities need also to be accounted as that may have indirect value of survival or anti-survival.

The indices of the survival credit score will be the asset of individuals that will be equivalent to cash or currency for meeting needs, and total score of the population can be added to the national assets in addition to its resources. An appropriate development of SCS can eventually lead to the cashless transactions and currency free world in future. The proposed dynamic model based on survival is much more meritorious and realistic than the present accountings of evaluation. This is a method to correct the prevailing systems built mainly on the age old practices and arbitrary ranking of life values (Kobie, 2019^[17]). Obviously survival based value setting is an invaluable concept for every spectrum of life. It will be a single point multi targeted value fixing for individuals to account economical activities in the modern life.

The survival centered approach enables perfect linking of the basic needs for survival of human species, and in that respect every life species, which include external resources for growth

and maintenance, biological and conducive environment, security and protection. Because of confining values on survival based activities in this concept the quality and standards could be fixed globally. By this survival model ethical standards can also be set universally which is found impossible with many other methods of at present.

Every action as well as character of an individual is important markers in the survival model if they are to be accounted properly. For example a killer or a criminal simply gets negative scores while a mother looking after a home and child is eligible for credits. The husbands who neglect wives and children become liable for his irresponsibility to survival. The parents without enough resources to take care their children are naturally payable for their irresponsible deed to have many children. Destruction of nature and environment are definitely graded with negative scores. Agriculture activity will be eligible for survival credits obviously while excessive use of pesticides and herbicides would be punished and therefore accounted for negative scores. Genuine leaders own SCS but their conscious actions, if any to eliminate rivals will be marked for negative scores. Survival concept will be critically valuable in judiciary as the court decisions are to be relied upon faiths and beliefs now due to the present legal limitations over biological species. Similarly organizations and institutions can also be graded on the basis of SCS in addition to their human resources and organizational activities. The benevolent positive characters such as kindness, empathy, sympathy, sincerity, honesty, love, etc. are eligible for survival credits. Through this approach even the persons with negative characters will be motivated to strive for gaining credits by their positive performances. The population promotion by the interest of present business world will be controlled through the SCS application, and that will enable finally to achieve the stable equilibrium between population and resources. Obviously SCS is a realistic and meaningful concept for every spectrum of life.

The fixation of credit points for the inborn characters and talents, acquired skills and life activities can be done through standardization and international consensus in a digital format. The SCS can be used for meritorious ranking of people in education, specialized training and professional performances. As a case one can be trained as a doctor or nurse depends on SCS accounting empathy, kindness, talents, inherent talents, potential, etc. Currently learning potential and paying capacity are taken as the credentials for individuals rather than real merits and interests to serve and support survival. Beyond that such humane sectors are not devoid of criminal minded people in the present condition. Similarly a score sheet can be prepared for individuals as soon as they are passing the childhood. The score index will be the guidance to lead further life activities of individuals. In reality the credit score of a person is equivalent to the value of present currency for regular purpose.

There may be questions about setting of values for physically challenged people from birth and accidents adopting survival principle. Survival is important for each and every life, and the physically challenged population deserve due consideration naturally. The most important point here is that when human value is set on the basis of survival principle in the society there will be a drastic reduction in such physically challenged population. The studies show that a huge number of human beings are significantly affected because of the terrific use of various chemicals for agriculture, produces & food and

preservatives, medicines, drugs, weapons, cosmetics, etc. globally (Kalliora *et al*, 2018) ^[14]. Similarly road accidents alone kill 1.35 million people and injure between 20 to 30 million people each year around the world (WHO, 2020) ^[35]. The International Labour Organisation reports the shocking number of 340 million occupational accidents and 160 million victims of work-related illnesses every year (LaDou *et al*, 2018) ^[19]. Majority of the above cases are resulted absolutely from the unaccountability and negligence of the present system. Mostly the risks are loaded to insurance cover that again is not life dependent, only promote business and money. In certain cases the risks are being taken by organizations and governments without considering survival of the individual life involved. Whatever may be the cases no one has the authority to take risk on others life. It is certainly clear that the introduction of survival based systems will not admit the chances of accidents and casualties inadvertently.

A true economic model that is linked to human life is also possible by accounting SCS unlike the existing indirect method of value setting and accumulation of lifeless wealth independently. There is no scientific reason to reject the new survival centered concept as it is a fair approach for setting human values. The tremendous task to assess human values based on ethics, conscience, god fearing, empathy, kindness, love, etc. can be made easy by the survival centered credit score. A fully developed survival centered economic system would enable to stop atrocities against life, society, nature and the planet. Thus this approach can also bring normalcy and peace globally.

The above discussion unambiguously explains the scope and importance of survival centered value setting for a bright human life ahead. However, it is important to research further about the survival model in detail for the development of a working model with values and figures. The concept of survival model should be experimented widely with due importance by the active participation and leadership of academicians, sociologist, human lovers, economists, nature conservationists and international agencies including United Nations.

Conclusion

In the modern life everything is counted in terms of money generally. As a result the entire population of human species is working hard to make money without thinking about the damages and consequences of their blind activities. It means the systems for individual life and social life are being pursued irrationally and unscientifically to earn money. This is ultimately implicating survival of countless species including the *Homo sapience*.

Undoubtedly the most suitable definition for life is survival. All other views on life are plenty but are inapplicable without survival. On this merit human values can be set on the basis of survival as the bench mark which have direct link with life unlike the current method of accounting human values. Accordingly individuals, organizations, institutions and society get survival credit scores (SCS) when the activities are pro-survival and the scores will be negative for anti-survival gestures. Survival credit scores are the personalized credits equal to currency, which cannot be stolen or taken away like hard currency and other assigned valuables. This basic idea to account survival credits in life activities is realistic that would make revolutionary changes in modern life by binding with nature and positive future.

The development of a social system based on survival centered concept is expected to eliminate the present problems in human life such as environmental pollution, destruction of nature and climate change, crime, unemployment, corruption and fraudulent activities, wars and anti-human fights between races and religions, financial insecurity, unhealthy competitions and unethical practices, over population, etc.

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