

# GITA AND MANAGEMENT

Submitted By

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"Yoga has two different meanings - a general meaning and a technical meaning. The general meaning is the joining together or union of any two or more things. The technical meaning is "a state of stability and peace and the means or practices which lead to that state." The Bhagavad Gita uses the word with both meanings. Lord Krishna is real Yogi who can maintain a peaceful mind in the midst of any crisis." –

-Mata Amritanandamayi Devi

The Bhagavad Gita can be experienced as a powerful catalyst for transformation. It has been termed as a Song of Lord ad spirit. It has become a secret driving force behind the unfoldment of one's life as well as the essence of the Vedas, Upanishads. It is a universal scripture applicable to people of all temperaments and for all times. It is a book with sublime thoughts and practical instructions on Yoga, Devotion, Vedanta and Action. It is profound in thought and sublime in heights of vision. It brings peace and solace to souls that are afflicted by the three fires of mortal existence, namely, afflictions caused by one's own body (disease etc), those caused by beings around one (e.g. wild animals, snakes etc.), and those caused by the gods (natural disasters, earth-quakes, floods etc). Mind can be one's friend or enemy. Mind is the cause for both bondage and liberation.

The *Bhagavad Gita*, written thousands of years ago, enlightens us on all managerial techniques leading us towards a harmonious and blissful state of affairs in place of the conflict, tensions, poor productivity, absence of motivation and so on, common in most of Indian enterprises today – and probably in enterprises in many other countries.

The modern (Western) management concepts of vision, leadership, motivation, excellence in work, achieving goals, giving work meaning, decision making and planning, are all discussed in the *Bhagavad Gita*. There is one major difference. While Western management thought too often deals with problems at material, external and peripheral levels, the *Bhagavad Gita* tackles the issues from the grass roots level of human thinking. Management is all work keeping in mind the long term goals. But focusing only on results may prove blinders for managers. Instead of being creative, one may become skeptic towards out-of-box ideas and prefer to do routine activities, thus infusing "boredom" in work and looking forward to "weekend getaways". B.G advises us to not only engage in constructive work but to also enjoy and allow freedom in activities so as to create satisfaction in job itself. Management should encourage a work culture of novelty so as to regularly impart freshness in work practices.

The management philosophy emanating from the West, is based on the lure of materialism and on a perennial thirst for profit, irrespective of the quality of the means adopted to achieve that goal. This phenomenon has its source in the abundant wealth of the West and so 'management by materialism' has caught the fancy of all the countries the world over, India being no exception to this trend. India has been in the forefront in importing these ideas mainly because of its centuries old indoctrination by colonial rulers, which has inculcated in us a feeling that anything Western is good and anything Indian is inferior.

The roles of modern managers are leadership, motivation, developing human resources, team building and communication. These qualities of decision making, attitude towards work and people, vision, planning etc. was expounded so expertly centuries ago by the 'most acclaimed' Management Guru Lord Krishna to His disciple Arjuna during the epic war that it is worth inclusion in the 21st century Management curriculum. Indian enterprises are rife with conflicts, tensions, low productivity and reduced efficiency due to incapability of managers to analyze

the situation from deeper grass root level. Though western work regulations may have been successful through principles of perennial profit generation, philosophies of Gita delivers two fold advantages by not only helping in spiritual advancement but extending a pragmatic angle to executing modern day management practices too

#### References

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