

HOTA – Program Committee Meeting Minutes - February 20 2018

Attendees: Prashad Yalamanchi, Sri Mukthananda, Fred Stella, Madhu Sharma, Chandra Reddy, Nainan Desai, Ami Patel, Sant Gupta, Vipul Patel

9:30 PM – 10:30 PM EST

Started with Prayer by Chandra Reddy

Session 5

Socio-Cultural includes lifestyle, dietary habits, customs, language, education, values and beliefs

Abrahamic centric vs Hindu awareness

Chaplaincy can also be a socio-cultural concern but more from the standpoint of how organizations can sponsor chaplaincy

Bringing it back to the families – so that children grow up with the basic principles of Hindu Dharma

Inter-faith marriages

How do we make ourselves be comfortable in who we are – proud to be a Hindu

Can our organizations do that from the beginning?

In the US, family is in big trouble. We need to preserve family because alternate lifestyle is becoming fashionable

We need to focus on strengthening our families and our values

LGBTQ – we need to address this issue and how we tackle this as the younger generation have access to information and we can't avoid talking about it.

Sri Mukthanandaji said there are 11 genders covered in Hinduism. Hinduism is inclusive

There are 2 ways to look at such issues:

1. Religious
2. Religious and Legal

What is Hinduism's disposition on this topic? Hindus accept everyone in every form

We need to discuss legal implications and awareness as a starting point

How do we help our organizations understand this growing phenomenon and where we stand

Non-Indian Hindus and spiritual but not religious Hindus – there is some convergence here

High suicide rates and drinking problems in Guyana related to identity problems

Session 6

Bhutanese in America and Canada and how they have migrated and made a life here

Trinidad – Professor Adesh – 40 years and had trained 50000 students in music - the culture has survived because of this educational initiative

Maharishi University – yoga and meditation, scientific studies and research – how the city and community was build would demonstrate tremendous impact

In the US, Hindus are 1st or 2nd highest earning and educated, but clearly there is something to be said about the Hindu Indian community in the US and this is probably the same for many countries. Report on this trend would be interesting. Most are proud to be Indian and not Hindus. There is something about the culture.

It could be covered in the economic forum perhaps.

One of the reasons of such success is that they are coming with some degree of education as compared to the ones coming from other countries.

What is the reason of excelling? Is there a possibility of a study here drawing correlation to Hindu heritage?

Pew research – info on America, but not other countries

Kazakhstan – Akmaral Kainazarova is a classical dancer who started a school after learning in India and is teaching now spreading the culture and dance

Russia – Iskcon issue related to land and how they are fighting and winning against all odds

Trinidad – Shiva temple built on the beach and gov't against it so he 100 yards out made artificial land and constructed temple in the middle of the ocean

US – Yogaville has done tremendous work in training people and now they are reciting prayers, mantras, bhajans and shlokas

Ended with Prayer by Sri Mukthananda