

Response to GSRK Note

Sunil Sahasrabudhe (14 Jan 2023)

As suggested by Suresh, I am giving my observations on the discussion taking place on the proposal for Lokavidya Samaj Study from Bengaluru. Two main points - one about the method and the other about lokavidya.

- What are the advantages of the method of questionnaire filled by college students whose parents are in Lokavidya Samaj? As far as I remember, the only advantage mentioned so far is convenience of the investigators. This, though, can hardly be called an advantage, Not just this but it can be extremely misleading or even harmful. The college students' information base, knowledge, values and way of thinking will, in all probability, be very different from their parents. To get square with my years of mis-trust of the questionnaire method, I went to google-search (which is perhaps not the best thing to do) and found that 'A questionnaire is a research tool used to conduct surveys. It includes specific questions with the goal to understand a topic from the *respondents' point of view*' (italics mine).
- Some one said during the meeting that Lokavidya has been mainly understood as knowledge outside the university. This may have been said often to underline the location of lokavidya because the university is commonly seen as the chief location of knowledge and knowledge activity. However it must be said that our discourse on lokavidya describes and identifies various positive qualities and aspects of lokavidya. This discussion on lokavidya was started again, perhaps late in 2022 or early in 2023, questioning the basic validity of the idea of lokavidya anymore for understanding (the changes in) the world of knowledge and reality, and thereby providing a new way of thinking about and dialoguing on a new political imagination. In this context I had written a note titled 'Revisiting Lokavidya'. This note was sent to this group by Girish on 18th Feb. 2023. There are five parts of that note. These are --- I. The Point of Departure, II. Lokavidya and Ordinary Life, III. A Summary Statement on

Lokavidya, IV. Milestones and V. Lokavidya Jan Andolan. Please take a look.