

# GLOBAL FAMILY VIBE OF *VASUDHAIVA KUṬUMBĀKAM*: A KILBIAN-LIKE INNOVATION FOR ONE LIFE-ONE DESTINY

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Some expressions are not mere phrases but powerful thoughts that herald transformation in our global consciousness. The notions of ‘Gen Z’ and ‘Vibe’—two interconnected ideas in contemporary lexicon— exemplify this phenomenon. Gen Z is a generation that embodies the spirit of change, embracing every ‘vibe’ as a stepping stone toward a more inclusive future. This ‘Gen Z Vibe’ as a ‘Global Family Vibe’ mirrors a new mode of unity—where the freedom to express unique identities coexists with an understanding that everyone is part of a broader and interdependent world. Social media and public sphere serve as platforms for them to promote a culture that values inclusivity and fluidity in personal identity.

With a strong commitment to social justice, Gen Z vibe champions diversity and challenges established conventions, viewing both technology and society as integral to their identity, shaping how they communicate, create and engage with the world. This evolving worldview transcends barriers and man-made boundaries acknowledging the interconnectedness and interdependence of all forms of beings. In this context, we explore the enduring significance of the ancient Indian wisdom of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* (वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्: *Mahā Upaniṣad* 6:71) – the idea that the world is one family – and its relevance to modern societies where cultural, political, social, religious and technological boundaries are constantly being drawn and redrawn.

The ‘all-inclusive worldview in *vasudhaiva Kuṭumbakam*, presented here as ‘Gen Z global family vibe’, promotes peace, prosperity and the well-being of all (*sarvodaya*). Further, in the

modern era, this ancient Indian philosophical vision has found its technological counterpart in the Kilbian innovation, initiated by Jack Kilby's invention of the integrated circuit (IC) in 1958, which has unified the world in unprecedented ways by revolutionizing global communication, connectivity and human interaction. I have deliberately used the expression 'Kilbian-like innovation' to highlight the transformative impact of Kilby's invention, which revolutionized technology by bringing together complex systems into a single, integrated whole and miniaturized electronic components (later through microchip) and paved the way for compact, powerful devices like computers and smartphones. Just as Kilby's invention transformed communication, bringing the world closer together, the mantra of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* visualized a global network where distance and divisions are bridged by the power of connectivity and family spirit.

The ancient Indian Upanishadic sages, in my view, were the original architects of the global family vision, as they contemplated *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* under a shared framework of progress and prosperity. This idea finds parallels in George Padmore's call for 'one life and one destiny' and Mahatma Gandhi's principles of *Antyodaya* (uplifting the most deprived) and *Sarvodaya* (welfare of all). This Kilbian-like innovation is not merely a technological advancement; it represents a monumental leap towards the mutual interconnectedness that evolves the foundational spirit of a universal family, propelling us into an era of coexistence, where the truth of 'one life and one destiny' unites us all. The "global family vibe" is, therefore, not merely a feel-good slogan but a revolutionary call to reevaluate our interconnectedness in the face of escalating global crises and racial discrimination.

At this juncture, it is also equally important to reflect upon the shared responsibility that the global family model entails. Whether it is combating climate change, addressing global health crises or managing the socio-economic effects of globalization, our choices have far-reaching consequences. In the spirit of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam*, we must prioritize not only technological advancement but also its ethical and sustainable application to

safeguard the well-being of all living beings on earth. Yet, the digital age has also fostered individualism and tribalism. Social media creates echo chambers, political polarization deepens and economic inequality threatens to fracture our sense of global unity. As technology reshapes industries, economies and geopolitical power structures, nations and corporations often compete for dominance in the tech sector. In this race, we must avoid exploiting natural resources or prioritizing profit over people, lest we undermine the very principle of unity that *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* upholds.

Take, for instance, the climate crisis. The effects of environmental degradation do not stop at borders. Rising sea levels in the Pacific disrupt global weather patterns, and industrial pollution in one country contributes to health crises in another. This interconnectedness of our environmental health is a clear reminder that the global family vision is not just moral but deeply practical. The spirit of the global family vibe prepares us to see each other not as competitors or strangers but as fellow citizens of the universe, united in pursuit of the shared goal of one life and one destiny. It means celebrating the diversity of human experience, acknowledging that our differences enrich, rather than divide, the fabric of our global community. Moreover, this vibe encompasses the idea of *vasudha* (earth/land) belonging to all living and non-living beings, where existence is understood through pro-existence and coexistence, encouraging individuals to be members of the family rather than becoming neighbours.

Rajen Lakra, in his article “Echoes of *Vasudhaiva Kuṭumbakam* in Gandhi’s *Ahiṃsā*,” explores Gandhian notion of *ahiṃsā* as an embodiment of love, compassion, and empathy, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living beings. Highlighting the historical significance of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam*, Lakra illustrates how it fosters the unity of all existence. In “One Global Family: Insights from Confucian Tenets and Practices,” Yiwen Guo analyzes how Confucian teachings on the global family parallel the principles of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* in a Chinese context. Chen Zeng and William Sweet, in their article “Ecological Civilization and the Path to Ecological Citizenship: A New Approach to *Vasudhaiva*

*Kuṭumbakam*,” propose an ecological vision of global family rooted in ecological citizenship and civilization, where humanity acts as custodians of the earth, living in harmony with nature. They further argue that the ideals of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* remind us of our moral imperative to act as stewards of our planet and all its inhabitants.

Jipson Joseph and Achyutananda Mishra, in “Global Poverty and Human Security: A *Vasudhaiva Kuṭumbakam* Perspective,” reframe human security through the foundational principles of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam*, aiming to eradicate poverty and promote global well-being. Kim Jonggab, in “Surplus Suffering and Human Interconnectedness: A Philosophical Critique of the Medicalization of Depression and Spiritual Transformation,” argues that spirituality emerges from collective human suffering and existential questioning, with human subjectivity and spirit deeply interconnected. In his view, surplus suffering postulates human spiritual Interconnectedness. Lee Kwanhu’s “Confucian Belief-System Towards Political Well-Being: The Foundation of Legitimacy in Representative Government” links political well-being to the global family vision, especially within the Confucian political context. Finally, in “Christianity and Politics in Modern Japan: A Connected Historical Approach Towards Religio-Political Well-Being,” Eun-Young Park and Do-Hyung Kim examine the persistent role of religio-political well-being and global interconnectedness in Japanese Christianity.

As we know, no country is immune to global crises, and a nation-first approach often proves inadequate. A world that views itself as a family would invest in solutions that benefit all, rather than hoarding resources or imposing sanctions that disproportionately harm the vulnerable. In this vision, states would act as custodians, not only of their own citizens but also of global harmony and prosperity. A true global family does not seek to homogenize belief systems but rather celebrates diversity while upholding our common ethical and spiritual heritage.

As mentioned earlier, the ripple effects of one nation’s decisions—whether in addressing climate change, battling pandemics or navigating economic crises—are felt globally.

Hence politics should be driven by the welfare of all. Too often, politics becomes an arena where power struggles overshadow the needs of the people. However, following the motto of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam*, political parties would focus on the common good, crafting policies that benefit not only their constituents but humanity as a whole. Political leaders, inspired by this worldview, would prioritize long-term, sustainable solutions over short-term gains, ensuring that future generations inherit a world where all can thrive.

The 2023 G20 Summit, held in New Delhi, India (September 9-10), adopted *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* as its central theme, promoting the motto "One Earth, One Family, One Future" to emphasize the critical need for global unity (mea.gov.in). Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that solving the world's most pressing challenges requires nations to collaborate, rebuild trust and enhance cooperation. He stressed that overcoming divisions is vital to fostering a collective sense of destiny and shared responsibility. The G20 Summit, thus, called for a rethinking of international relations, prioritizing solidarity over competition. By embracing the *Vasudhaiva Kuṭumbakam* vision, the summit urged global leaders to acknowledge that real progress is achieved when we function as one global family. The focus on unity also highlighted the significance of inclusive growth, ensuring that no nation or community is left behind in the journey toward a sustainable future (G20 Summit, New Delhi).

In short, the spirit of 'One Life-One Destiny' demands a global family mindset—where solidarity, not division, becomes the guiding principle. We must vibe with community, not isolation, breaking free from outdated narratives and stepping into a future where the family spirit drives change. Our destiny is to create a family (*kuṭumbakam*) and this philosophy offers the roadmap to a better world that excludes no one. One life - one family - one destiny - that is the true essence of the Gen Z vibe. By cultivating this global family spirit, Gen Z can ignite transformative movements that resonate with the ancient wisdom of *vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam*. Together, we can build up a universe where every life matters and one destiny unites us all.

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