

Sarva Dharma Samvaad was conceived as a mindful response to the cosmetic and status quo oriented practices of Interfaith dialogue in India. With time and experience, it was realised that respect and celebration of 'otherness', which was the sap that nourished the vastly diverse and rich Indian culture, is acutely lacking in the modern interfaith interactions. Such interactions are driven by a mere symptomatic diagnosis of the epidermis of the predicaments that aroused due to the tension arising out of friction between modern interfaith and intercultural living. Such an approach, thus, neglected action and thrived on media and the conference-savvy approach to academia that invariably supports the status quo rather than guiding the society towards a transformative metamorphosis. This has led to a situation in which the interfaith discourse is, probably even wilfully, avoided by the youth.

Sarva Dharma Samvaad aims to change this by promoting not only tolerance but inculcating respect and celebration of the otherness especially among the youth of this great nation and culture. Through its trainings and youth retreats Sarva Dharma Samvaad has been successful in promoting dialogical living in the midst of several interfaith youth practitioners and interreligious participants.

The present publication, which is the first publication of Sarva Dharma Samvaad, intends to take this idea further in the academic world and will be followed by several other such endeavours pivoting around dialogue as a way of life. An Overview of Interfaith Dialogue in India has come into existence through the extreme devotion and perspicacious intellect of Shri Vikas Baniwal and equally dedicated efforts of Ms Farha Iman, Ms Anshu Chaudhary, Ms Ankita Gupta and Ms Aparajita Rai. The relentless support of Ms Frances Rose, Programme Manager at KAICIID was key to ensuring that this ambitious venture becomes a reality.