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**CULTURAL ROOTS OF ANTYODAYA: DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA'S  
APPROACH TO SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PLURAL SOCIETIES**

Dr. Goutam Das

**Abstract**

This article explores the cultural roots of Antyodaya, which is Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's most important idea in Integral Humanism. It presents Antyodaya as a Dharma-centered way to achieve social justice in diverse, pluralistic communities. Dharma, which includes moral order, righteousness, and cosmic harmony, has its roots in old Indian philosophical beliefs. Upadhyaya adapts this as his basic ethic for modern times, putting more emphasis on holistic human development than on materialistic or individualistic views. The paper looks at Upadhyaya's writings and compares them to Western theories of justice, like Rawlsian liberalism. It says that Antyodaya's "uplift of the last person" promotes fairness for everyone by putting an emphasis on decentralized government, cultural preservation, and spiritual integration. This helps reduce conflicts in multicultural places like India today. It criticizes secular models for not being connected to indigenous values and suggests Dharma-based Antyodaya as a strong option to deal with issues like inequality, social fragmentation, and identity-based divisions. With examples from how Indian policies were put into action, the study shows how Antyodaya can help bring about lasting peace in diverse cultures around the world, even as polarization grows. In the end, this framework provides a culturally appropriate plan for social justice and urges policymakers to include ethical foundations in growth plans to ensure long-term social cohesion.

**Keywords: Antyodaya, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Integral Humanism, Social Justice, Plural Societies**