

How important and relevant is Bhagavad-Gita's teachings regarding spiritual intelligence

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Abstract

The paper gives the important and relevant of Bhagavad-Gita's Teachings regarding Spiritual Intelligence which falls in the psychological context. It develops Spiritual Intelligence on the basis of establishing relationship between educational philosophy and social psychology. In this paper an attempt has been made to recognize, comprehend, find out, analyze, synthesize, evaluate and critically examine along with to develop positive attitude, appreciate, and take interest in the dominant factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence based on the Bhagavad-Gita's Teachings. The paper concludes 'Spiritual Intelligence' as "it is intelligence which helps to fulfill the potentialities of the individuals' abilities through the three disciplines of action, knowledge and devotion which establishes the identity of the individual soul with Supreme soul to lead to supreme bliss in order to gain the highest knowledge and wisdom, if the teachers enable to modify such kind of discipline patterns of individuals, - this is spiritual intelligence." However, the present study suggests that spiritual intelligence would be beneficial for the teachers in particular and individuals in general for the betterment of the global society as a whole.

Keywords: Spiritual, Intelligence, Bhagavad-Gita, Teaching

1. Introduction

Bhagavad-Gita is a part of the Mahabharata, written by Ved Vyasa, consisted of seven hundreds verses in the eighteen chapters dealing with philosophical or metaphysical thought and action with respect to spiritual disciplines, begins with a conversation between Arjuna, the representative of mankind and Lord Krishna, the Supreme Divine. First chapter includes forty seven verses dealing with the despondency of Arjuna, second chapter has seventy two verses dealing with Sankhyayoga which proceeds along the path of knowledge, third chapter has forty three verses dealing with path of action, fourth chapter has forty two verses dealing with wisdom, fifth chapter has twenty nine verses dealing with renunciation of action leads to supreme bliss, sixth chapter has forty seven verses dealing with the discipline of meditation, seven chapter has thirty verses dealing with wisdom with self-realization, eighth chapter has twenty eight verses dealing with the Supreme Imperishable, ninth chapter has thirty four verses dealing with knowledge with realization, tenth chapter has forty two verses dealing with divine glory, eleventh chapter has fifty five verses dealing with discipline of action and its fruits, twelfth chapter has twenty verses dealing with spiritual disciplines for God-realization, thirteenth chapter has thirty four verses dealing with difference between Body and Soul/Spirit, fourteenth chapter has twenty seven verses dealing with division of the three characteristics, fifteenth chapter has twenty verses dealing with Supreme Spirit, sixteenth chapter has twenty four verses dealing with spiritual traits, seventeenth chapter has twenty eight verses dealing with the Threefold Faith, and eighteenth chapter has seventy eight verses dealing with Threefold Knowledge, Action, Joy, Duty and so on. Bhagavad-Gita is divided into three parts. The first to six chapters (two hundreds eighty verses) deal with the path of Action (Karamayoga), the seven to twelve chapters (two hundreds nine verses) explain the path of Devotion (Bhaktiyoga) and the thirteen to eighteen chapters (two hundreds eleven verses) point out about the path of

Knowledge (Jnyanayoga) which establishes the identity of the individual spirit with the Supreme Spirit.

Spiritual intelligence is consisted of two words-spiritual and intelligence. The word spiritual derived from Latin word *spiritus*, which means "that gives life or vitality to a system." (Zohar, 1997) ^[11]. Collins Cobuild English Dictionary (1995) defines spirit as "It is concerned with your character, behavior and feelings, a person's spirit are the non-physical part of them that is believed to remain alive after their death. His spirit has left him and all that remains is the shell of his body, a spirit is a ghost or supernatural being, spirit is the courage and determination that helps people to survive in difficult times and to keep their way of life and their beliefs and spirit is the liveliness and energy that supreme shows in what they do they played with spirit."

Collins Dictionary (2009) defines "Intelligence is the ability to think, reason, and understand instead of doing things automatically or by instinct". Intelligence defined as "an ability of cognitive, affective and conative behaviors of the child who put in social environment inductively and deductively (Srivastava, 2013) ^[5].

Many social scientists, psychologists, philosophers, thinkers, educators, educationists and educational concerns believe that intelligence is based on mind that is ability to develop mind and values mind, while they devalues spirit. So what is the relationship between 'spiritual' and 'intelligence'? Zohar (1997) ^[11]. Asserted that the constructs of 'spiritual' and 'intelligence' are related with one another. The relation between the spiritual and intelligence is what constitute "spiritual intelligence" which is the factor to a well-being of a person and for fulfilling life.

Tiwary (2013) ^[10]. Observes that education has four pillars-knowledge, wisdom, spiritual perception, and eloquent speech. It has been said that knowledge is power. Knowledge is the source by which all worldly powers could be grabbed. It is the source of all material resources. This is why knowledge in any field makes a man powerful in that field. The next pillar is

wisdom-which is not the synonym of intelligence, rather intelligence with sensitivity and sensibility. It is a sense of right or wrong, emotional stability, flexibility and maturity of mind. It is closely related to spiritual perception which builds up divinity in human being. Here, the man of spirituality believes in the principle of 'Live and let live'. It believes in peaceful coexistence for better and brighter tomorrow and the last is eloquent speech. Those who are well versed in particular branch of knowledge with wisdom and spiritual perception do have eloquent speech.

But the 'Spiritual intelligence', working with the paper "Spiritual Intelligence of Prospective Teachers" Srivastava (2013) [4], defined as "it is the intelligence which enhances capabilities, capacities, competencies and skills of the individual to solve the everyday problems creatively and constructively in the new situation of the social environment for attaining ultimate aims of education" and working with the other paper, Spiritual intelligence, Srivastava (2014) [6]. Defined as "it is the intelligence which enhances capabilities, capacities, competencies and skills of the individual to become achievement-motive and emotionally intelligent to solve the everyday problems creatively and constructively in the new situation of the socio-psycho-physical environment for attaining ultimate aims of education".

The study may be considered as a significant from the point of view that spiritually intelligent individuals may be influenced by Bhagavad-Gita and its Teachings. So they constitute a group of individuals who are unknown till this day. The study may bring out a fact that such a group of individuals does exist. Similarly, the study may bring to the light on the existence of the group of individuals who are better spiritually intelligent as compared to other group. This may be considered as one of the contribution of the study.

Keeping in view the above fact, it seems essential to study how the individuals are coping with spiritual intelligence in particular and in what way they are different with other. Accordingly, it has been decided by the investigator to undertake a conceptual research study of how important and relevant is Bhagavad-Gita regarding spiritual intelligence of individuals.

- Whether the individuals have spiritual intelligence?
- Whether Bhagavad-Gita has important role for influencing spiritual intelligence of individuals?
- Whether Bhagavad-Gita affects the spiritual intelligence of individuals?
- Whether Bhagavad-Gita has relevance to spiritual intelligence of individuals?
- Whether factors of spiritual intelligence enshrined in Bhagavad-Gita?
- Whether body, mind, heart and spirit affect the spiritual intelligence with respect to Bhagavad-Gita?

2. Rationale of the Study

The article indicates that an analysis of the various problems of spiritual intelligence in the psychological perspective, may be accepted by the researchers and practitioners of spiritual studies for carrying out research on what is required is that the individuals as well as society internalize the understanding of the Spiritual Intelligence and bring about a dynamic change in their living patterns. It seems that in a country like ours programs of identification and nurturing of talent should receive a very high priority. The study is needed and

significant from several points of view not only in bringing excellence among individuals but also in revealing the probable interplay among disciplines of action, devotion and knowledge. Besides disciplines of action and knowledge, there is a need of discipline of devotion which will build up spiritual development. National Curriculum for School Education, NCERT (2000) [2]. Has observed that curriculum has to provide learning experiences which will improve individual's thoughts, feelings and actions. Very few researches have been developed to study spiritual intelligence in India and its contribution to the field of education, spiritual intelligence is less explored. The study is philosophical in its nature because it indicates normative aspect of education with respect to aim of education, curriculum, and method of teaching, discipline, students, teachers and schools. This study has sociological bases of education because of being related to social needs according to society. This study covers psychological aspect of education for instance growth and development of the students, learning, motivation, personality development and adjustment, etc. It is well known to all that Indian society is a spiritual based society. Some of the scholars felt that after independence the spirituality gradually disappear and it will have no impact on Indian educational system. India is a neither developed nor undeveloped country but where development is required in each and every sphere of human life. Spiritual intelligence and its implications are increasing day by day. For the appearance of the spirituality in the development of the educational system, in this connection, Kothari Commission (1966) [1]. Points out, "In the development that we envisage in the future, we hope that the pursuit of men, material affluence and power would be subordinated to that of higher values and the fulfillment of the individual. This concept of the mingling of 'Science and Spirituality' is of special significance for Indian Education."

In this paper an attempt has been made to recognize, comprehend, find out, analyze, synthesize, evaluate and critically examine the dominant factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence and its impact on education of today and tomorrow in Indian society. This study may help the students to understand and to solve the problem of education more efficiently. They may flower into excellent of our nation. Hence the investigator has decided to conduct the present study.

On this background the problem may be stated as "How Important and Relevant is Bhagavad-Gita's Teachings Regarding Spiritual Intelligence"

3. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to recognize and define spiritual intelligence, find out to recognize factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence, critically examine factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence, to analyze factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence, to comprehend factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence, to analyze factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence, to synthesize factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence and to evaluate factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence with respect to Bhagavad-Gita's Teachings and its metaphysical thought and action in the field of spiritualized education and its impact on present educational system.

4. Delimitation of the Study

Keeping in view the limitation of time, resources and energy, the study is limited to one aspect of the subject which is spiritual intelligence based on Bhagavad-Gita's Teachings. It is entirely based on the secondary data as for examples-books, journals, periodicals, newspapers etc. this constitutes a major constraint of the study as the journals and periodicals are sometimes subject to manipulations and information available in them is in historical nature.

5. Review of Literature

Nehru (1946) ^[3] wrote "The Bhagavad-Gita is a part of the Mahabharata, an episode in the vast drama. But it stands apart and is complete in itself. It is a small poem of 700 verses-'the most beautiful, perhaps the only true philosophical song existing in any known tongue' so William von Humboldt described it. Every school of thought and philosophy looks up to it and interprets it in its own way. In times of crisis, when the mind of man is tortured by doubt and is torn by the conflict of duties, it has turned all the more to the Gita for light and guidance. For, it is a poem of crisis, of political and social crisis and even more so, of crisis in the spirit of man. Even the leaders of thought and action of the present day- Tilak, Aurobindo Ghose, Gandhi- have written on it, each giving his own interpretation. Arjuna becomes the symbol of the tortured spirit of man, which from age to age, has been torn by conflicting obligations and moralities. From this personal conversation we are taken step by step to higher and more impersonal regions of individual duty and social behavior, of the application of ethics to human life, of the spiritual outlook that should govern all. The Gita deals essentially with the spiritual background of human existence and it is in this context that the practical problems of everyday life appear. It is call to action to meet the obligations and duties of life, but always keeping in view that spiritual background and the larger purpose of the universes."

6. Methodology

Methodology takes a significant role in any type of research as the reliability and validity of the findings depend upon the methods adopted and applied in the study. This paper is descriptive in nature. It is mainly based on secondary data and is largely collected from different sources like books, journals, articles, and periodicals. This study is conducted mainly by applying analytical cum descriptive method for the research. The investigator has made effort to express spiritual intelligence critically.

7. Analysis and Interpretation

The concept, meaning, and principles related to spiritual intelligence have been dealt with clarity and deep insight. Before we discuss the factors responsible for strengthening spiritual intelligence, it is essential for us to know the meaning of spiritual intelligence. The term 'spiritual intelligence' has different meanings to different psychologists in different context. But the 'Spiritual intelligence', working with the paper "Spiritual Intelligence: An Overview" Srivastava (2016) ^[7], defined as "It is intelligence which helps to fulfill the potentialities of the individuals' abilities through the non-cognitive virtues to prepare them to solve the everyday problems for life creatively and constructively in the new

situation of the socio-psycho-physical environment for attaining the highest knowledge and wisdom, if the teachers enable to modify such kind of behavior patterns of individuals, - this is spiritual intelligence."

Modern education, however, lays great emphasis on spiritual intelligence. Perhaps, this is precisely the cause why the learner seeks only to learn and study about the discovering own soul/ spirit. With this consideration of spirit, the development of spiritual intelligence is purely and surely to please the modern learner. It is, however, spiritual intelligence helps in the development of the natural man into the ideal man.

Moreover, there is a problem of lack of spiritual intelligence within individuals in our India today because each and every school or college or university suffers from such wisdom knowledge and devotion and it is because of this problem that our entire educational system is going aimlessly. That is why it may be said that educationists, teacher educators, teachers, educational administrators, educational supervisors, curriculum constructors and educational planners in our country should wake up to the task of the curriculum construction, curriculum development and curriculum transaction of spiritual intelligence and its aims and objective, method of teaching and techniques by understanding a critical examination of the present set up of spiritual intelligence for human wellbeing, and furthermore, in order to sustain and to strengthen human beings' spiritual growth and development, India needs a fast development in the area of research on spiritual intelligence. This can be done by strengthening the pillars of professional education particularly the teacher education. Otherwise, the ignorance of spiritual intelligence will result in exploitation, corruption, aggression, destruction, disaster, selfishness and hatred. In short, it may say that spiritual intelligence regulates positive personality and control negative personality. Srivastava (2016) ^[6]. Working with the paper "Conceptual Input of Spiritual Intelligence with respect to Indian Philosophers" says that it can contribute in solving the everyday problems of individuals' life creatively and constructively in the new situation of the socio-psycho-physical environment for their wellbeing.

8. Discussion

To be quite honest and fair, the field of spiritual intelligence is too much vast and it is not easy to achieve a well-balanced perspective of what is really happening and what is lacking in our research work. The study under consideration has been carried out with the recognizing, comprehending, examining critically, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating the spiritual intelligence has great relevance to the present-day inside schools, colleges, and universities or outside and it can bring about a dynamic change in the educational system not only of the country, but also the world. Here, the impact of modifying patterns of the Indian educational system in the disciplines of knowledge, devotion and action, would be analyzed in depth and thus it may contribute in solving the everyday problems of individuals' life creatively and constructively in the new situation of the socio-psycho-physical environment for their wellbeing. The spiritual gains of light, bliss and power and its impact in the field of measuring SQ- the concepts which have been identified.

9. Conclusion

Sivananda (2000) [9]. Observes “If all the Upanishads should represent cows, Sri-Krishna is their milker. Arjuna is the calf who first tasted the milk of the wisdom of the self, milked by the divine cowherd for the benefit of all humanity. The milk is the Bhagavad-Gita. It solves not only Arjuna’s problems and doubts, but also the world’s problem and those of every individual. Glory to Krishna, the friend of the cowherd of Gokula, the joy of Devki! He, who drinks the nectar of the Gita through purification of the heart and regular meditation, attains immortality, eternal bliss, everlasting peace and perennial joy. There is nothing more to be attained beyond this.”

Spiritual intelligence must become an integral part of teacher education as well as school education and ultimately study of spiritual science will become a part of all courses in Humanities and Social Sciences at University level also. The quality of spiritual science must also be raised considerably so as to promote a deep understanding of its theory and principle to solve the everyday problems of life for attaining ultimate aim of education.

All constructive and creative works related to Bhagavad-Gita and its Teachings, it is felt that there is a great deal has been done to trace the development of spiritual intelligence and its dominant factors with special reference to psychological paradigm, much has also been done to spiritualize education in India to draw in broad an outline of spiritual wealth and much has so far been also done to investigate the spiritual intelligence of individuals for recreating and reconstructing a spiritual society in our country through the disciplines of knowledge, devotion and action and a great importance was given on the democratic concept of education as the means of discovering truth. Greater emphasis is being paid to spiritual intelligence through a dialogue between Arjuna, human being and Lord Krishna, Supreme Being.

All the books and writings on Bhagavad-Gita, is the most important inspiring spiritual literature of the world, propounds cardinal principles of spiritual livings, of course, yields useful information regarding spiritual intelligence, and also give details of spiritual foundation of education as well as help in progressive basis of education for the betterment of the pupils of the spiritual society as a whole.

To have an access to the realization of thought and action with respect to Bhagavad-Gita’s Teachings which serves as a foundation of nurturing spiritual intelligence, which reflects for achieving highest aim of education and beneficial for human engineering and soul doctoring. Keeping in view in mind, the author concludes the ‘Spiritual Intelligence’ as “it is intelligence which helps to fulfill the potentialities of the individuals’ abilities through the three disciplines of action, knowledge and devotion which establishes the identity of the individual soul with Supreme soul to lead to supreme bliss in order to gain the highest knowledge and wisdom, if the teachers enable to modify such kind of discipline patterns of individuals, - this is spiritual intelligence.” That is why, therefore, it may be described in terms of combination of an individual’s soul with supreme soul through the disciplines of knowledge, devotion, and action which are beneficial for human engineering and soul doctoring that appears to have made a considerable progress and development of the society. However, the present study suggests that spiritual intelligence would be beneficial for the teachers in particular and

individuals in general for betterment of the global society as a whole.

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