

An outline of spiritual intelligence for practical and real life perspective

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Abstract

The paper gives an outline of Spiritual Intelligence for practical and real life perspective 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 utilitarian theory of education. The paper concludes 'Spiritual Intelligence' as "it is an ability which helps to fulfill the potentialities of the individual's practical and real life perspective through thought and action philosophy which provides an understanding of his environment to solve the everyday problems constructively in order to gain the highest knowledge and wisdom for building his/her self-concept, self-control, self-esteem, self-determination, self-confidence, and self-development, if the teachers enable to modify such kind of patterns of individual, - this is spiritual intelligence." However, the present study suggests that spiritual intelligence is based on cognitive skills, affective skills and psychomotor skills, would be beneficial for the teacher educators and prospective teachers in particular & individuals in general for the betterment of the global society as a whole.

Keywords: Spiritual, Intelligence, Practical Life, Real Life

Introduction

Background

Practical life does mean basic, useful and purposeful life and dealing with way of living in the society so the individual can learn how to do living activities in a purposeful way for fulfilling the needs of the society. The purpose and aim of the practical life is to help the individuals to adjust in the society for their growth and development. Practical life activities give them an understanding of their environment for enjoying physical value, mental value, cultural value, social value, ethical and moral values, aesthetical value, utilitarian value, disciplinary value, educational value, intellectual value, concentrative value, expressive value, economical value, attitudinal value, scientific value, appreciative value and spiritual value. Thus, practical life is a thought and action philosophy that provides cognitive skills, affective skills and psychomotor skills related to everyday life. It is more important for the personal and environmental cares.

Real life does mean the state of things as they actually exist. Real life is truly to discover how to solve the plans that may be beneficial for the human beings. From very beginning human needs were the main bases of invention and origin of any new knowledge. This means that every branch of knowledge has its own importance as it fulfills some needs of human beings. The importance of the real life establishes its theoretical and practical relationships. Real life fulfills most of the needs of human beings related to different aspects of his everyday life. In this universe, everyone is in his day-to-day life. There is a definite need of everyone's life long planning and day-to day planning for finding real faith.

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) [12]. Collins Cobuild English Dictionary (1995) defines spirit as "It is concerned with your character,

behavior and feelings, a person's spirit are the nonphysical 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) [6].

Many social scientists, psychologists, philosophers, thinkers, practitioners, 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) [12] 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.

Vaughan (2002) [11] described, "Spiritual intelligence is concerned with the inner life of mind and spirit and its relationship to being in the world. Spiritual intelligence implies a capacity for a deep understanding of existential questions and insights into multiple levels of consciousness. Spiritual intelligence also implies awareness of spirit as the ground of being or as the creative life force of evolution. If the evolution of life from stardust to mineral, vegetable, animal, and human existence implies some form of intelligence rather than being a purely random process, it might be called spiritual. Spiritual intelligence emerges as consciousness

evolves into an ever-deepening awareness of matter, life, body, mind, soul, and spirit. Spiritual intelligence, then, is more than individual mental ability. It appears to connect the personal to the transpersonal and the self to spirit. Spiritual intelligence goes beyond conventional psychological development. In addition to self-awareness, it implies awareness of our relationship to the transcendent, to each other, to the earth and all beings. Working as a psychotherapist, my expression is that spiritual intelligence opens the heart, illuminates the mind, and inspires the soul, connecting the individual human psyche to the underlying ground of being. Spiritual intelligence can be developed with practice and can help a person distinguish reality from illusion. It may be expressed in and culture as love, wisdom, and service.

But the 'Spiritual intelligence', working with the paper "Spiritual Intelligence of Prospective Teachers" Srivastava (2013) [6], 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) [7] 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".

Thus, spiritual intelligence has got its spiritual value and this value is steadily increasing with development of human civilization.

Srivastava (2016) [8, 9, 10] 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.

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 an outline of spiritual intelligence for practical and real life perspective.

- Whether the individuals have spiritual intelligence for practical life?
- Whether the individuals have spiritual intelligence for real life?
- Whether spiritual intelligence affects practical life of human beings?
- Whether spiritual intelligence affects real life of individuals?
- Whether factors of spiritual intelligence relevance to practical and real life perspective?
- Whether body, mind, heart and spirit affect the spiritual intelligence for practical and real life perspective?

Rationale of the Study

The article indicates that an analysis of the various problems of spiritual intelligence in the practical and real life 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 practical and real life perspective. National Curriculum for School Education, NCERT (2000) [3] 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) 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 "An Outline of Spiritual Intelligence for Practical and Real Life Perspective"

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 for practical and real life perspective.

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 for practical and real life perspective. 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 descriptive nature.

Review of Literature

Bagheri, Zarea and Esmaili (2013) [1] concluded that the concept of spiritual intelligence contains a kind of consistency and behavior of solving problem which includes the highest level of development in various areas of cognitive, moral, emotional, interpersonal etc. And assist individuals to harmony with surrounding phenomena and achieving internal and external integration. This intelligence gives people a holistic view about life and all experiences and events and enables him to do the reinterpretation of his experiences, and makes his cognition more depth. Person who has the basic principles of the religion (like achieving unity behind the apparent diversity, finding of answers about the origin of the universe, distinguishing spiritual patters and adjust his behavior based on them) also encompasses the main axes of spiritual intelligence.

Nehru (1946) [4] writes the process of life, were not wholly adapted to the physical, the artistic, the spiritual, and other elements of the invisible world. Life does not consist entirely of what we see and hear and feel, the visible world which is undergoing change in time and space; it is continually touching an invisible world of other, and possibly more stable changeable elements, and no thinking person can ignore this invisible world.....The real problems for me remain problems of individual and social life, of harmonious living, of a proper balancing of an individual's inner and outer life, of an adjustment of the relations between individuals and between groups, of a continuous becoming something better and higher, of social development, of the ceaseless adventure of man. In the solution of these problems the way of observation and precise knowledge and deliberate reasoning, according to the method of science, must be followed.

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.

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) [8, 9, 10], 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."

Working with the other paper Srivastava (2016) [8, 9, 10] defined '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."

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.

Discussion

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 practical and real life perspective. 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 theory with the practice. 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 for the theory and practice of spiritual intelligence for practical and

real life perspective, 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

Conclusion

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 spiritual intelligence, 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 practice education in India to draw in broad an outline of spiritual intelligence for practical and real life perspective 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 and a great importance was given on the democratic concept of education. Greater emphasis is being paid to spiritual intelligence.

All the books and writings on spiritual intelligence of course, yields useful information regarding practical and real life perspective, and also give details of modern 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 spiritual intelligence which serves as a foundation of practical and real life perspective, this reflects for utilitarian theory of education. Keeping in view in mind, the author concludes the 'Spiritual Intelligence' as "it is an ability which helps to fulfill the potentialities of the individual's practical and real life perspective through thought and action philosophy which provides an understanding of his environment to solve the everyday problems constructively in order to gain the highest knowledge and wisdom for building his/her self-concept, self-control, self-esteem, self-determination, self-confidence, and self-development, if the teachers enable to modify such kind of patterns of individual, - this is spiritual intelligence." However, the present study suggests that spiritual intelligence is based on cognitive skills, affective skills and psychomotor skills, would be beneficial for the teacher educators and prospective teachers in particular & individuals in general for the betterment of the global society as a whole.

An education that seeks to prepare children for practical and real life in the most profound sense, will want to give voice to the big questions, a place for a wider range of modes of knowing, feeling and doing approach that is based on recognition, reflection and response of utilitarian theory of education.

Educational Implications

Most importantly, the present study suggests that the individuals would assess their own personal worth or competencies on basis of internal and external evidences for the development of the society. In abroad, a lot of research

works has been done on spiritual intelligence, but in India particularly for practical and real life perspective, a little research work has been done. The present study contributes to review of literature in the field of Indian educational system regarding teacher education. The present study also suggests that some of the individuals possess more practical and real life perspective and some of them possess less practical and real life perspective. At the same time, they have a low spiritual intelligence. Thus, they will have to make continuously and uninterrupted efforts to develop spiritual intelligence.

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