



SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPS INNOVATORS

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Abstract

Education is a systematic process. It develops personality of an individual in all fields and aspects. It is necessary that education develops innovation quality in students. Innovation is the application of better solutions that meet new requirements in needs. It is something original, new, and important that breaks in a society. An innovator in a general sense is a person or an organization who is one of the first to introduce into reality something better than before. Today, society needs the smart creative and innovative people for survival, betterment of life with peace. The researcher through the stated objectives and the procedure undertaken indicates that the Spiritual Intelligence (S.I.) is one factor which creates Innovators. Spiritual Intelligence gives humans the opportunity to be creative, innovative into modern era. Spiritual realities will look for excellence among the objects, places, relationships and roles every day in education which develop innovators. It is used when one needs to be flexible, visionary or creatively spontaneous. It helps in dealing with existential problems. It gives an insight of what life's struggles are about. Spiritual Intelligence enables to fight with the problems of good and bad, life and death. The researcher indicates that the spiritual intelligence is one of factors that can be leveraged to enhance the power of innovation.

Key words: *Spiritual Intelligence, development, Innovation.*

Introduction: “Passionately committed teachers are those who absolutely love what they do. They are constantly searching for more effective ways to reach their children, to master the contents and methods of their craft. They feel a personal mission...to learning as much as they can about the world, about others, about themselves – and helping others to do the same.”

Zehm and Kottler, 1993.

Education is a life-long process by which an individual adapts himself/herself gradually and gracefully to the available physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual environments. Hence, to carry out the process of education, teachers’ as well as students’ all round development should also be considered seriously. Education is expected to provide ways and means for achieving the development of body, mind and spirit. The main director for this change is the teacher. So teachers are to be emotionally and spiritually mature enough to deal with the emotional and spiritual needs of the students. During the pre-service programme itself, the student-teachers need to be exposed to emotional and spiritual development programme. The ‘teacher’ is the most powerful ‘environment’ for the child especially in schools. Teachers do influence the personality of students. Their emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual realms have profound influence on the development of children. Only teachers who are spiritually intelligent can promote the development of students. A developed mind and a discriminative intellect are the twin gifts of nature especially endowed to man and making the best use of them, he has been trying to explore the mysteries of the universe which is the symbol of innovation. So to study the role of spiritual intelligence in developing innovators is important.

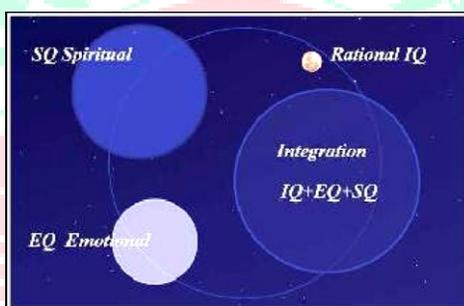
Objectives:

1. To study the concepts of ‘Spiritual Intelligence’ and ‘Innovation’.
2. To find out the use of spiritual intelligence in developing innovators.
3. To suggest activities for the enhancement of innovative ideas of the students by focusing on Spiritual Intelligence in Education.

Spiritual Intelligence: Spiritual Intelligence (S.I.) is that intelligence which is required when we begin to open up to our spirit’s journey and to quest for a greater understanding of life. The term ‘spirit’ has been defined as “the animating or vital principle, which gives life to the physical organism in contrast to its material elements. It is the breath of life.” (Webster’s Dictionary, 1997). The term ‘spiritual’ as an adjective, refers to ‘concerning the spirit’ as opposed to matter. Spiritualism is one of the philosophical doctrines in which it is believed that the ‘spirit’ exists as

distinct from matter or that 'spirit' is the only reality. Indian scriptures refer to this term as 'Atma' or Soul. The term 'Spirituality' is a source of creativity open to us all. It brings the quality of aliveness which sparks inquiry, ideas, observations, insights, empathy, artistic expression, earnest endeavors, and playfulness. It opens us to life and to each other. Spiritual intelligence (SI) is what we seek for, to find higher purpose and a greater sense of self, to become wise by accessing our natural birthright of wisdom.

According to Zohar & Marshall (2000), SI is described as "The intelligence with which we address and solve problems of meaning and value; the intelligence with which we can place our actions and our lives in a wider, richer, meaning giving context; the intelligence with which we can assess that, one course of action or one life-path is more meaningful than another".



S.I. is conceptualized as the ultimate intelligence or the necessary foundation for the effective functioning of both IQ & EI. We use SI to deal with existential problems and to get guided – to live life at a deeper level of meaning – to have an understanding of who we are and what things mean to us and our place in this world.

Innovation: Some people like Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford are often called innovators. An **innovator** in a general sense is a person or an organization who is one of the first to introduce into reality something better than before. That opens up a new area for others and achieves an innovation. The term innovation can be defined as something original and, as consequence, new that "breaks in to" the market or into society. One usually associates to new phenomena that are important in some way. Innovation is the application of better solutions that meet new requirements, unarticulated needs, or existing market needs. This is accomplished through more effective products, processes, services, technologies, or ideas that are readily available to markets, governments and society.

A definition of the term, in line with these aspects, would be the following:

"An innovation is something original, new, and important - in whatever field - that breaks in to (or obtains a foothold in) a market or society."

Innovation differs from invention in that innovation refers to the use of a better and, as a result, novel idea or method, whereas invention refers more directly to the creation of the idea or method itself. Innovation differs from improvement in that innovation refers to the notion of doing something different rather than doing the same thing better. Innovators have shaped the world we live in. Their drive, ideas and creations have brought about things others considered impossible. There is no set of characteristics that by itself determines who will be an innovator, but many accomplished innovators share certain characteristics.

Following are most important:

- 1) Taking failure in their stride
- 2) Identifying new demands
- 3) Passion and Drive
- 4) Vision
- 5) Creativity

Importance of Spiritual intelligence in education to promote Innovators:

Education



Spiritual Intelligence



Innovator

The teacher is supposed to be the main pillar in building a nation. It is the duty of the teacher to strengthen the new generation and to prepare the citizens to face boldly the present age of science and technology.

Education for promoting relevant emotions needs to be recognized as an essential element of the educational process in the classroom since they strengthen the provided information, knowledge & wisdom and direct attention and facilitate the attainment of goals. Only teachers who are spiritually intelligent can promote the spirituality of students. Rao (2002) explains the need for educational leaders to be spiritually intelligent; 'Value clarification' is essential for an educational leader to discriminate between 'diplomacy' and 'hypocrisy' in the noble field of education.

Teachers should be in a position to accept the scriptural view of the modern age as a challenge for new millennium, by thoroughly clarifying the value system. If the teacher is spiritually

intelligent, s/he can manage the spiritual traits of his/her students in order to provide balanced environment in the classroom. Sense of self, empathy, kindness, intuition, motivation, awareness, social skills, forgiveness, reconciliation, dedication are some of the major components of spiritual intelligence. All these aspects are very much needed for the development (as a process or course of change) of suitable qualities among students and hence among their teachers too. The existing education system is a hybrid variety of conventional / traditional, and modern / new generation type. There is a serious need for standardization. The ongoing pattern of education is linear oriented or 'left-brain' oriented. We seriously lack a holistic and integrated approach. The concept SI with its enhancement is the need of the hour. There is a great connection between S.I. and Innovation.

The following is one of the major concepts of SI/SQ as reflected in the work of Zohar and Marshall:

- Spiritual intelligence is used when one need to be flexible, visionary or creatively spontaneous.

Another well known work in the field of SI is "Spiritual Psychology" by Akbar Husain (2005) (a professor of psychology, Aligarh Muslim University) the following is one of the major perspectives that Husain has raised in his work on "Spiritual Psychology":

Spiritual transformation is the transformation of an individual towards divine nature. It takes place in three steps. First, an individual accepts the fact that he is incapable of solving his own problems; then the individual feels guilty for the cause of the present situation and desires for a new way. In the final step, the individual surrenders himself to the supreme powers. Thus a transformation takes place as the individual surrenders to the Gods' will. A developed mind and a discriminative intellect are the twin gifts of nature especially endowed to man and making the best use of them, he has been trying to explore the mysteries of the universe. He takes pride in his intelligence but often forgets that there is intelligence higher than that of the mind and intellect. It comes from the soul and comes spontaneously. Innovating with a goal of spirituality has the focus of making a contribution that enhances the living conditions, the moral fabric or a heightening of consciousness for others.

Awdhesh Singh says in his book 'Practising Spiritual Intelligence: Innovation, leadership and Happiness' that Spiritual Intelligence refers to the intuitive knowledge of the self, others, situations and techniques to achieve the desired objectives. So it is important to create a way of

innovation through S.I. in education. So it is the responsibility of a teacher to form some activities to develop Innovative ideas of students with Spiritual Intelligence.

Some activities or ways to develop innovative ideas of students with S.I.:

1. Tell students stories to build up their trust towards god, improves knowledge of god.
2. Tell them to read scriptures of various religions with regard to the concept of god and religiosity.
3. Present some real life situations regarding happiness and distress, ask them to reflect.
4. Give some meditational activities.
5. Show some documentary films which are based on Quest for life values.
6. Show some pictures of famous people, present poem, read some of the salient features of Biographies to clear the concepts of conviction, commitment and character.
7. Explain the meaning of Indian pledge.
8. Show the preamble of the Indian Constitution and ask to discuss about the measures to reduce inequality in the name of caste, creed, colour, etc.
9. Divide students in two groups and give such activity which assesses their level of interpersonal relationship.
10. Ask about love and compassion by narrating some incidents.
11. Show power point presentation of Metamorphosis and ask them to explain the importance of flexibility.
12. Give such activity which find out their leadership quality.
13. Tell them to solve a paper containing questions on the natural phenomenon.
14. Create available time, money, and/or resources so that students can “play” with new ideas.
15. Let students know that if they propose a great idea and it is rejected, they are expected to resubmit the idea as many times and in as many ways as necessary until others see the genius of it.
16. Any idea must be submitted with three other ideas designed to address the same challenge.
17. Create a great “break spot” where students want to gather. This facilitates the informal communication that results in improved work.

These activities helps teacher to develop spiritual characters and innovative as well as creative attitude of students.

Conclusion: If the teacher is spiritually intelligent, s/he can manage the spiritual traits of his/her students in order to provide balanced environment in the classroom. Sense of self, empathy, kindness, intuition, motivation, awareness, social skills, forgiveness, reconciliation, dedication are some of the major components of spiritual intelligence. All these aspects are very much needed for the development of suitable qualities among students and hence among their teachers too. This study is very relevant in this competitive globalised world where, ideally, ‘Might is Right’ only, is heard everywhere. This study would throw light into ultimately, student-teacher’s development in the fields of innovation through spiritual intelligence.

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