

The Need of Mystical Experience to the Engineering Students

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Abstract

A change of perception is the prime requisite to the engineering students, which is core message of this paper. The prime need is to develop the ethical competence through right understanding. As Larsen says the mystical experience is an intuitive understanding and realization of meaning of existence, and the mystical experience expressed in Tagore's "Geethanjali" has largely been tried to emphasize the humanism, which are key points in the paper in order to change the perception of the students. The value and need of mystical experience and why it is required to the engineering students is discussed in the paper. Why ethical values are dishonored among the students is also discussed. The paper aimed how mystical experience enable the students in helping them appreciate the essential relationship between values and skills to ensure sustained happiness and prosperity, which are the prime aspirations of all human beings, and to facilitate the development of a holistic perspective among the students towards life and profession as well as towards happiness & prosperity based on a proper understanding of the human reality and the rest of the existence. Broadly, the aim of the paper is to enable the students to maximize the 5Cs - character, caliber, capacity, conduct (behavior), compassion (empathy).

Keywords: mysticism, types of mysticism, mystical experience, Engineering Students

Introduction

A change of ethos and a change of perception is the prime requisite, which would be the core message of this research. The prime need is to develop the ethical competence through right understanding.

Mysticism is derived from the Greek word "μυω" meaning "I conceal". Mysticism is known as becoming one with God or the Absolute but may refer to any kind of ecstasy or altered state of consciousness which is given a religious or spiritual meaning. It may also refer to the realization of insight in ultimate or hidden truths, and to human transformation supported by various practices and experiences. Tagore's "Githanjali" reveals Tagore standing face to face with the Divine. The songs of Githanjali are an appeal that is both universal and perennial.

Statement of the Problem

- At the level of the individual- rising problems of depression, anxiety, suicides, stress, insecurity, increasing health problems, lack of confidence and conviction etc.
- In the present system and in their professional career there is no tangible mechanism to develop the ethical competence of individual and the dominating world view is primarily profit-oriented. For example:
 1. Corruption at various levels and in different forms
 2. Tax-evasion and misappropriation of funds
 3. Unethical nature of advertisements and sales promotion

Aim of the Paper

- The research is aimed at helping the students appreciate the essential relationship between values and skills to ensure sustained happiness and prosperity, which are the prime aspirations of all human beings
- Its objective is also to facilitate the development of a holistic perspective among the students towards life and profession as well as towards happiness & prosperity based on a proper understanding of the human reality and the rest of the existence
- Other aim of the research is highlighting probable implications of such a holistic comprehending in terms of ethical human conduct, trustful and mutually fulfilling human behavior and mutually enriching interaction with people as well as nature
- It is also intended to provide a much required orientational input in value education to the minds of engineering students
- It enables in removing the students' confusion and complexes and bringing in self-confidence, clarity and conviction
- Broadly the aim of the research is to enable the students to habituate the 5Cs- character, caliber, capacity, conduct, compassion
- It enables the students to enhance entrepreneurial skills
- It makes to have uniformity in life
- Students get consolation by understanding death in a real manner whenever they happen to commit suicide
- It enables students to consider everything as sacred

Methodology

The methodology for the research is explorational or qualitative which involves systematic rational study of the human being/engineering students in relation to the rest of existence.

Based on the questionnaire, prepared by the researcher, problems of the students are collected.

Questionnaire: Some of the sample questions are:

1. What is your perception?
 - A) Maximization of physical facilities
 - B) an honest exercising of human values

2. What is your opinion towards the needy? Help or Ignore them
3. Do you think that it is possible to gain unlimited wants having limited sources? Yes/ No
4. Do you think that you should maintain harmony with Nature? Yes/No

After having completion of the collection of opinions the engineering students in Nalgonda district the researcher came to know that fifty percent opinions are given negative response for the above questions.

Definitions of Mysticism

According to McClenon, mysticism is the doctrine that special mental states or events allow an understanding of ultimate truths. Edward Caird defined mysticism as “religion in its most concentrated and exclusive form” as “that attitude of the mind in which all other relations are swallowed up in the relation of the soul to God”. According to Aravindo, as he said in his “Savitri”, mysticism is:

“Alight not born of sun or moon or fire
 Alight that dwelt within and saw within shedding an intimate visibility
 Made secrecy more revealing than the word:
 Our sight and sense are a fallible gaze and touch
 And only the spirits vision is wholly true”
 Eliot, in his Four Quarters, says-
 “You must go through the way in which you are not
 And what you do not know is the only thing you know
 And what you own is that you do not own
 And where you are is where you are not”

Types of Mysticism

R.C. Zaehner distinguishes three fundamental types of mysticism, namely Theistic mysticism, Monistic mysticism, panenhenic mysticism or Natural mysticism- theistic mysticism includes most forms of Jewish, Christian and Islamic mysticism and occasional Hindu examples such as Ramanuja and the Bhagavad Gita. Monistic mysticism is based upon an experience of the unity of one’s soul, including Buddhism and Hindu schools such as Samya and Advaita Vedanta.

Natural mysticism seems to refer to examples that do not fit into one of these two categories.

Walter Terence Stace in his book *Mysticism and Philosophy* (1960) distinguished two types of mystical experience, namely Extrovert and Introvert mysticism. Extroversive mysticism is an experience of the unity of the external world, where as Introversive mysticism is an experience of unity without perceptual objects; it is literally an experience of nothingness. The unity in

extroversive mysticism is with the totality of objects of perception. While perception stays and continues, unity shines through the same world, the unity in introversive mysticism is with a pure consciousness, wherein awareness of the world and multiplicity is completely obliterated. The Indian scriptures provide guidelines for the ultimate realization of the infinite.

Humanistic Mysticism

The basic and most prime characteristic of Tagore's philosophy of life is his emphasis on the importance of the human person. Tagore's grievance towards the needy was well expressed one of his poems in his Gitanjali named "Where the mind is without fear". He tries to become more human by being ever in communion with the Divine. His oneness with the Infinite enables him to be a better man. He prays to the Father to make him strong enough to bear easily the joys and sorrows. He would always befriend the poor and protect them from the oppression of the mighty. In the 10th poem of his Gitanjali he identifies the Infinite in the humble humanity with whom He mixes on equal terms

Mystical Experience

The fathers of Hindu religion, the Vedic seers were mystics who personified in inspired words what they saw in mysticism. Ravindranath Tagore belongs to this line of mystic poets who have an inner vision and seek to convey the truths versioned in the language of ordinary experience. A mystical experience may come through visions or ecstasies or through meditation (the turning of the mind on itself and into the realm of spirit). In the 13th century the term *uniomystica* to be used to refer to the "spiritual marriage," the ecstasy or rapture, that was experienced when prayer was used to contemplate both god's omnipresence in the world and God in his essence. In the 19th century under the influence of romanticism this union was interpreted as a religious experience, which provides certainty about God or a transcendental reality. 19th century onwards mystical experience has evolved as a distinctive concept. It is closely related to mysticism but lays sole emphasis on the experiential aspect, it is spontaneous or induced by human behavior, whereas mysticism encompasses a broad range of practices aiming at a transformation of the person, not just inducing mystical experiences. William James' *The Varieties of Religious Experience* is the classic study on religious or mystical experience, which influenced deeply both the academic and popular understanding of religious experience. According to Larsen, mystical experience is an intuitive understanding and realization of meaning of existence. The mystical experience expressed in Geethanjali has largely been trying to emphasize the humanism of Tagore

Conclusion

This is the short-term result of the investigation of the researcher on the need of mystical experience to the engineering students. It is a bit diagnosis of the existential problems of engineering students. In this paper, mysticism and types of mysticism and mystical experience are

discussed in relation to how mystical experience may be helpful in resolving the problems. This kind of study is to be prescribed to the students of various streams.

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