

## Journey towards self-culture with reference to knowledge culture

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### Abstract

Self-culture is the care which everyman owes to himself, to the unfolding and perfecting of his nature cultivating a self-culture would help to resolve the self crisis. Man has to liberate himself from irrelevant social conditions. Now a day's man is in a pitiable state as with no security and inward peace due to materialistic race for excellence. Therefore, to resolve the self crisis cultivating a self-culture is a need of the hour. In other words complete knowledge of self with out of which improvement is not possible. For improvement to reach to highest levels i.e. -physical, aesthetic, and intellectual etc is essential. So the present paper will highlights only one aspect i.e knowledge at the intellectual level.

**Keywords:** journey towards, knowledge culture, self-culture, intellectual

### Introduction

Self-culture cultivates inner power and strength for which our active efforts are needed. It does not demand facilities, books, teachers and numbers of lessons learnt by rote will, will enable us to dispense with it. Self-culture is possible as it is a power of human soul. Human soul has two powers that make self culture possible. Those two powers are self searching and self forming. Self-culture is possible not only because we can enter into and search ourselves but for determining and forming ourselves. We can stay or change the current of thought. We can concentrate the intellect on objects that we wish to comprehend. We cannot look into ourselves without discovering the intellectual i.e powers of thinking, reasoning and judging, the powers of seeking and acquiring truth. To improve these powers cultivate ones understanding. This needs to have a wider perspective of himself through the narrower concepts like aesthetics, society, physique and knowledge.

Knowledge is a catalyst for social change and economic development of society and nation. Culture is meant for to cultivate. To cultivate anything be it a plant, an animal, a mind, is to make it grow. Growth, expansion is the end. So knowledge culture means sharing knowledge with others, abiding by the rules and ethics with full interest and enthusiasm. We can develop the interest by building a learning foundation and this is the critical foundation where we can expect the people will be able to function as knowledgeable. We can stimulate the people having knowledge by our collaborative motivation. Knowledge culture knows no bounds. There are numerous sources that open the gateways to the wider expanse of unlimited knowledge and anything is just a click away.

Nothing admits culture but that which has a principle of life, capable of being expanded and the self-culture is to grow and expand self. Each self is a part of that divine universal self that is all empowered and perfect. Now the question is where lies the scope of self-culture? Can we grow more? How can grow

more? Yes, we can grow more than perfect knowledge. Knowledge is "the facts feelings or experiences known by a person or group of people". It is philosophy which incorporates essentially a spirit or method of approaching experience rather than a body of conclusions about experience. It is the accumulated set of beliefs which become the distinctive characteristics of a nation. It is a system of values which determines what things one should do and what should not, because the principle of choice is the fundamental factor in life of a nation. Indian educational philosophical tradition is based on emancipation, attainment of four goals of life (Purushartha, Chantushtaya, Dharma (righteousness and conduct), Artha (Attainment of material prosperity without being unattained by Dharma), and Kama (Gratification of physical desire) and Moksa (emancipation from cause of all pains) which is known as Indian knowledge system. In other words this system is ritualistically confined to its traditional knowledge in the form of knowledge texts and manuscripts even in this age of information and technology. This is the knowledge that leads to the culture. Culture means "something cultivated as result of long experience of the race, something ripened. It is receptiveness to beauty and human feelings".

It comprises of vast array of interrelated knowledge, skills, values and goals. It is a true behavior of thoughts. A person who possesses both culture and expert knowledge will give children the ground to start from. Culture will lead them as deep as philosophy and as high as art. Hence blending of expert knowledge and culture will lead us towards self culture that is knowledge culture. It has been written in Indian manuscripts that knowledge must be shared for its growth and expansion. By sharing knowledge it will grow because knowledge originates in individual's mind but is embodied in work processes of the society. It in fact exists in all core functions of a society, as well as in its systems and infrastructure of all the tasks involved in managing knowledge. Its creation is the most slippery, because creating is cultivated rather than ordained.

To remain vital we need new knowledge. New knowledge, moreover, is a necessary raw material for innovation, another strategic goal that partly overlaps with knowledge management. As Geogevon Krogh has observed, "Knowledge creation is the key source of innovation in any institution." The knowledge pull mind set can be created if only it becomes an integral part of self-culture. Now the question is can we share the knowledge in this age of globalization? Yes we can, with the help of information technology. Information is quantifiable observable data. It is almost like reserving the cycle that saw information not as to end but beginning that should lead to knowledge and move beyond it to wisdom. By starting with the data raw facts and numbers, information is looked upon as data put into content and thereby making the data useful. However, only when information is combined with experience and judgment, does it become knowledge. Knowledge includes the information generated by the use of data through the insight and wisdom of the individual. And therefore, once we have knowledge, it can be put to work and applied for decision making. It is about making knowledge-sharing the norm. The old paradigm was "Knowledge is power". Today it needs to be explicitly understood that "sharing knowledge is power".

Information technology (IT) is a tool for efficient management of information in terms of storage, retrieval, processing, communication, diffusion and sharing of information for social, economical and cultural upliftment.

In academics sharing knowledge is the most inevitable necessity, which could strengthen the structure that could be built upon the output. Unfortunately in Indian universities and institutions of excellence there is a clear lack of awareness about this emerging culture of western universities.

The teaching and research faculties are badly in need of adopting this sharing bent of mind for various reasons. The mindset that is required for motivating the academicians towards knowledge sharing environment needs to be explained. When people understand that sharing their knowledge helps them do their jobs more effectively, helps them retain their jobs; helps them in their personal development and career progression; rewards them for getting things done; and brings more personal recognition, then knowledge sharing will become a reality. There are many inhibitions which prevent the academicians and scholars from developing a sharing bent of mind which in turn is responsible for deterioration of standards.

Realizing that knowledge is power, many people in academics developed a 'superiority complex' as the education system also did not permit the sharing perception among the scholars. In such a scenario there needs to be a mechanism of rewarding the people who excel not only in learning teaching along but also in sharing the knowledge with others.

The institutions would flourish well when the members develop bonds of inter-dependence and communication to achieve perfection. Lack of trust in other's abilities and exposure also makes certain scholars and researchers not to indulge in discussions and debates even though the system permits. They are naturally reluctant to share information with others and for this problem the solution is to create opportunities for them to interact in both formal and informal settings. The atmosphere must be congenial to develop

relationships among the people to weaknesses leading to the development of social capital in the institutions.

Many people believe that the hoarding of knowledge is power, a philosophy that many help individuals but hurts institutions. Creating a desire for knowledge among the faculty through continuous motivation and orientation could transform academic institutions into knowledge enterprises. There must be rewards, incentives in practice to encourage knowledge sharing among the like-minded people, which could stimulate the hidden enterprising talents and make them good knowledge workers. This changed perception of knowledge workers adopted towards the researchers and teachers by the institutional management and the public at large would promote the universities and research labs as knowledge enterprises. It's about promoting a culture that supports the sharing of knowledge among the faculties in various academic institutions. It also stresses on building awareness among the individuals about the value of creating, sharing and using knowledge of others.

It deals with developing and maintains human networks that share current knowledge and create new knowledge for transforming the institutions as knowledge enterprises.

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