

THE COMPREHENSIVENESS OF SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE

Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri

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Abstract

Intelligence can be described as the ability of a person to analyze information, and based on that analysis, act in an optimal way. A lot of research has been undertaken by psychologists, scholars, educators, etc., in this context and they have identified various types of intelligences inherent in human beings. But their focus has been on corporate business and certain worldly pursuits. This research paper provides in depth study of spiritual intelligence and its various branches covering vast fields of knowledge.

We have divided Spiritual Intelligence into three broad categories, viz., Ethical Intelligence, Spirits intelligence, and Mystical intelligence. A detailed study of all these categories is provided in this paper. This research paper requires focused reading as it deals with the areas rarely attempted by anyone so far.

Keywords – General intelligence, emotional intelligence, Spiritual Intelligence, Purpose of Life, Religion

Brief History

Aristotle (384-322 BC) described that 'man is a rational animal'. Later, scientists came to know that human being cannot be described as rational, rather he is emotional. An abundant amount of literature has been dedicated by philosophers and psychologists to this field of research and many theories have been proposed in this context.

In the beginning of 20th century, psychologists developed a way of measuring human relative intelligence by an Intelligence Quotient (IQ) which had become an obsession for a long time.

In 1983, Howard Gardner (born 1943) proposed many categories of general intelligence. In his book 'Frames of mind: The Theory of Multiple Intelligences' he proposed 8 intelligences, which are, (i) Naturalist (nature smart), (ii) Musical (sound smart), (iii) Logical-mathematical (number/reasoning smart), (iv) Existential (life

smart), (v) Interpersonal (people smart), (vi) Bodily-kinesthetic (body smart), (vii) Linguistic (word smart), and (viii) Intra-personal (self-smart). Later he added one more intelligence, (ix) Spatial Intelligence (picture smart) to his theory.

In 1995, Daniel Goleman (born 1946), published a book titled 'Emotional Intelligence', in which he described emotional intelligence as the primary factor of general intelligence. He proposed Emotional Quotient (EQ); the ability to know and cope with self-emotions and others' emotions, as the basic requirement for evaluating IQ.

In 1997, Dana Zohar (born 1945) suggested that Spiritual Intelligence controls general intelligence and emotional intelligence both. She wrote a book titled 'Re-wiring the Corporate Brain' in 1997 and claimed Spiritual Quotient (SQ) is fundamental to both IQ and EQ as it develops the capacity to know the meaning and value of things and helps a person to dream big and strive to achieve his dreams.

In 1997, Ken O'Donnell, (1924-1997), in his book 'Endoquality' suggested Spiritual Intelligence to have emotional and spiritual dimensions for people working in an Organization.

In 2009, Robert Emmons (born 1958), writing a research paper in 'International Journal of Psychology and Religion, proposed Spiritual Intelligence as the primary factor for a person to solve various issues in day-to-day life. He theorized spirituality to be cognitive and motivational.

Howard Gardner who had not included 'spiritual intelligence' into his 9 intelligences, later suggested that one of his 9 intelligences, viz.,

'Existential Intelligence' was a viable alternative to Spiritual Intelligence.

Our research in this regard has led us to classify *Spiritual Intelligence* into 3 major categories, as follows.

(i) *Ethical Intelligence* - It includes general or relative intelligence, emotional intelligence, and moral intelligence.

(ii) *Spirits Intelligence* – The ability to recognize spirits and their attributes in the Cosmos.

(iii) *Mystic Intelligence* - The ability to distinguish between truthful and spurious altered state of consciousness.

In the following, we have discussed in detail about these intelligences.

Ethical Intelligence

Morals or principles related to virtue can be defined as ethics. Some people have an intrinsic ability to find ways to benefit people in their family, neighborhood, and society. They are known as good souls in the community. Often, they are born with intelligence pertaining to morality and they try to serve humankind throughout their lives.

Various scholars have devised IQs and EQs to test peoples' general and emotional intelligence. There is a need to develop Moral Quotient (MQ) to know if the person has a clear understanding of human morality which may benefit humankind. When they are identified, they can be given the responsibility in different fields of peoples' welfare. If these responsibilities are given to people who are good in their IQ or EQ, but are selfish, not inclined to help people, they will be involved in corruption and will be the cause of suffering and destruction of the people.

Animals are also provided with intelligence required for their survival. But human intelligence is different in the sense that human beings have conscience with which they can differentiate between good and bad. Therefore, they are expected to keep their instinct of virtue dominated

over their evil instinct. This is known as moral intelligence.

Since, human being is also a social animal, he is required to be intelligent in terms of benefiting human society and his environment. This is the reason we need to evaluate people's moral quotient (MQ) to know their abilities in this context.

How can we judge our intelligences are channeled in the right way to safeguard (i) our good life, (ii) our rights and responsibilities, and (iii) our use of language in describing right and wrong, etc.?

For this purpose, a Moral Quotient (MQ) is needed based on (i) religious ethics, (ii) conscience, (iii) intuition, (iv) cost benefit analysis of actions, (v) historical examples of good human beings, (vi) political ethics, etc.

Intelligence Quotient (IQ) helps in interacting with numbers, formulas, and things. Emotional Quotient (EQ) helps to remain positive within ourselves and with others. Moral Quotient (MQ) helps in evaluating a persons' ability to be sincere and honest towards himself, his family and human society.

If a person uses his general intelligence, emotional intelligence, and moral intelligence to benefit himself, his family, and human society as a whole, all these come under the category of ethical intelligence. This is the reason we have categorized them under Ethical Intelligence.

Alternatively, if he uses the above intelligences to cheat people, harm others to achieve his selfish objectives, it cannot be called ethical intelligence'.

There is a need to develop a comprehensive Ethical Quotient (Eth Q) to evaluate a person's abilities in these areas.

Spirits Intelligence

Spirits Intelligence helps in knowing the role of spirits which are generally not seen by human eyes. Philosophers, sages, and scholars say that there are many realms of existence in the cosmos and many creatures inhabit in them. These are

known as spiritual beings, spirits, energies, etc., because they do not have physical bodies like human beings. Their bodies are not made up of matter like ours. It is said that most of them can see us while we cannot see them from our physical eyes. In some religions they are known as (1) *ghosts*, (2) *devils*, (3) *devas*, (4) *leprechauns*, (5) *elves*, (6) *fairies*, (7) *jinn*, (8) *deities*, (9) *gods*, etc.

Some people may say that how can we quantify the role of the spirits that are not visible to our eyes?

The most commonly given answer to this is, there are many things we cannot see with our eyes, but we do have knowledge about them and deal with them accordingly. For instance, an atom cannot be seen by the human eye without the use of a medium, yet we know a lot about it. We also know the different natures of atoms of various elements. The scientific fields like Quantum physics / Quantum Mechanics are based on subatomic functioning of the matter. Using this knowledge some scientists have developed weapons of mass destruction.

When we look up at the sky on a clear night, we see glittering stars. It is said that the stars and planets covered by our physical eyes are about 10 thousand. But we know there are galaxies way beyond that containing trillions of stars and planets and other celestial objects which are not seen by us.

Since it is a new area of research, this segment of our paper is divided into two sections, (i) description about the facts of spirits world, and (ii) suggestions on how to develop a Quotient to evaluate intelligence in this area.

(i) Description about the facts of Spirits worlds

(a) It is said that the spiritual beings in the Cosmos do not have restriction of movement like us. They can live in our houses, without being spotted, because they do not need physical space like us, as their bodies are not made up of matter. It is said that these creatures play a role

in influencing human beings physically, mentally, and emotionally.

(b) It is said that some people can get in touch with these spirits by calling their names several thousand times. If a person repeatedly calls a spirit, the attention of the spirit turns towards him and the spirit attends to his call. It is claimed that often, when a contact is established, the spirits can also make themselves visible to the caller.

(c) It is said that spirits can appear in any form to the caller, depending upon the image and attributes of the spirit or deity in his mind. Since spirits have the ability to take any shape, they appear to the caller in the shape which he has formed in his mind. This helps the person in solidifying his belief in them.

(d) It is claimed that Shamanic practitioners usually get in touch with the spirits of animals, ancestors, plant world, etc. It is also claimed that when diviners, clairvoyants, psychics, soothsayers, occults, etc., chant spells, they establish contact with the invisible realms.

(e) As has been described above, all realms of existence have their own creatures who are limitless in numbers. This is the reason the spirits in invisible realms of existence are of innumerable types, similar to the creatures in our physical world. The powerful ones among them are treated as devas, deities, gods, goddesses, etc. It is believed in some religions that they can help people if they are worshiped by making their idols. Since these spirits are males and females, they live as lovers, partners, or married couples within their community in the same way as we do in our physical world. It is reported that they also have children. Some of the pairs of the spirits, who are treated as gods and goddess by different people are as follows.

(1) *Acis - Galatea* (Greek), (2) *Apollo - Clymene* (Greek), (3) *Aeneas - Dido* (Roman), (4) *Venus - Adonis* (Greek / Roman), (5) *Vishnu - Lakshmi* (Hindu), (6) *Brahma - Saraswati* (Hindu), (7) *Krishna - Radha* (Hindu), (8) *Shiva - Parvati* (Hindu), (9) *Ram - Seeta* (Hindu) (10) *Diarmuid - Gráinne* (Irish), (12) *Gilgamesh - Enkidu* (Sumerian), (13) *Isis - Osiris* (Egyptian), (14)

Izanamino Mikoto - Izanagi (Japanese), (15)
Cowherd - Weaver Girl (Chinese), etc.

(f) The gods and goddesses are reported to have fights with other spirits in their realm who are reported to be devils. It is also reported that there are fights among gods to safeguard their territories.

(g) There are limitless spirits, deities, devas, gods which are revered and worshiped by people in the world. Some of these are as follows.

(1) Rigveda, the primary scripture of Vedic religion during 1500 – 500 BC, is reported to consist 1,028 hymns for calling different deities / spirits / gods / pantheons. These include, Indra, Vritra, Vala, Agni, Soma, Surya, Vishnu, Sarasvati, etc.

(2) It is reported that the deities / spirits / gods / pantheons etc., which are worshiped in Hinduism are 330 million. Hindu scriptures claim that there are 33 Koti gods. One Koti equals 10 million. Some among them are known as Vishnu, Shiva, Brahma, Ganesha, Kartikeya, Parvati, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Durga, Kali, etc.

(3) Hindus also believe that gods/deities manifest as incarnations in human form, like Krishna, Rama, etc. There are many people in Hindu society who claim themselves as Godmen (incarnations of some god). Animals and plants are also worshiped in Hinduism.

(4) Buddhists worship many deities / gods / spirits like Yakshas, Sambhogakaya, Prajnaparamita, Vasudhara Cundi, Fudo-Myo, Gosanze, Gundari, Daiitoku, Dakinis, Dharmapalas, Asuras, Maras, Caturmaharajakayikas, etc.

(5) In ancient times, thousands of deities were worshiped in Greece. Some of these are known as Janus, Jupiter, Saturn, Genius, Mercury, Apollo, Mars, Vulcan, Neptune, Sol, Orcus, Liber,

Tellus, Ceres, Juno, Luna, Diana, Minerva, Venus, Vesta, etc.

(6) In North America many deities were worshiped by native tribes, like Azaban, Gluskab, Aholi, Taiowa, Igaluk, Pinga, Goddess Atabey, Juracan, Iosheka, etc.

(7) In Africa, many spirits are worshiped, like Akan, Ashanti, Bambara, Bahumono, Dahomey, Efik, Gikuyu, Igbo, etc.

(8) Hundreds of millions of gods/deities are worshiped by (1) *Armenians*, (2) *Chinese*, (3) *Egyptians*, (4) *Germans*, (5) *Aztec*, (6) *Berber*, (7) *Canaanite*, (8) *Celtic*, (9) *Guanche*, (10) *Incan*, (11) *Jain*, (12) *Japanese*, (13) *Maya*, (14) *Mtatsminda*, (15) *Norse*, (16) *Slavic*, (17) *Sumerian*, (18) *Yoruba*, etc.

(ii) Suggestions on how to develop a quotient to evaluate intelligence in this area

Like other intelligences, some people are born with the intelligence to identify the spirits. It is claimed that they befriend them and use them in knowing certain things which cannot be known by general people.

Is there a way to develop a Spirits Quotient (Sp Q) to judge the person's ability to get in touch, and deal with these Spirits?

Like other sciences which have developed over a period of time, this may also take some time. Eventually, we should be able to develop a comprehensive Spirits Quotient (Sp Q). Some of the areas to be evaluated in this context are given below.

(a) All the facts given in point (i) above should be kept in mind while developing a Spirits Quotient (Sp Q).

(b) Correct understanding about this Cosmos

Three research papers have been published in this context, viz., (1) "Religion – A Historical Perspective" by Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri, CIFIA Global Journal, Vol 2, January 2021. (2) "Religion and Secularism", by Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri, CIFIA Global

Journal, Vol 3, June 2021. (3) “Is there a Conflict between Religion and Science”, by Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri, CIFIA Global Journal, Vol 3, June 2021.

The above research papers are important read in having correct understanding about this Cosmos. They provide valuable information about this Cosmos and its creator. These research papers have concluded that the original religion of mankind was monotheism of one God who is the creator of this Cosmos.

The following issues have also been concluded in the above research papers.

(1) When we have understood the facts about this Cosmos and its creator, it is easy to deal with spirits of all kinds.

(2) It is important to know that there cannot be unlimited gods and to consider spiritual beings as gods / deities is not appropriate.

(3) When a person knows about this fact, he will not be inclined to worship any spirit in this cosmos.

(c) The understanding on how to safeguard ourselves from powerful spirits

(1) There are people in our physical world who bully us. There are tyrant kings, ruthless dictators, etc., who try to make people their slaves. How do we deal with them? People like Gandhi and Nelson Mandela have dealt with them from their intelligence.

Similarly, it is said that there are spirits like ghosts, devils, leprechauns, elves, fairies, etc., who bully human beings. The person should have intelligence in dealing with them to protect himself, his family, and others. We need to evaluate his knowledge in this context.

(2) As has been described above, billions of people have started worshipping spirits of all kinds out of fear. Gradually, they have been accepted as gods. The person

should have intelligence to rid humanity from their slavery.

(d) There are references in this context in the Quran.

(1) ‘Say: ‘I seek refuge with the lord of the Daybreak’, from the evil of (certain) creatures (devils, evil Jinns, humans, and others). And from the evil of darkness as it deepens (during the night). And from the evil of (women practicing) witchcraft and blowing (spells) over knotted ropes. And from the evil of the envious when he is jealous (and tries to harm).’ (113: 1-5).

(2) ‘Say: ‘I seek refuge in the Lord of humankind’, the sovereign of the mankind, the God of the mankind; from the evil of the insidious whisperer (Satan/Devil), who whispers evil consideration (evil suggestions) into the hearts of people, (both) from among the jinns and people.’ (114: 1-6)

Mystical Intelligence

It is said that mystic experience happens in the altered state of consciousness or altered state of mind. It is a state which is pointedly different from usual waking state of the mind. It is claimed that it is a state of ecstasy in which people understand the meanings of certain things. And based on that understanding, they interpret certain things and preach them to people. Various definitions have been given by people about mystical visions / experiences as follows.

(a) Mystic vision is the state of absorption in a deity / god which is attained by meditation and contemplation.

(b) It is a philosophy of instinctive knowledge about spirits. Some people say in mystical ecstasy, people realize the reality of their god(s).

(c) It is cognitive perception.

(d) It is a way of communication with god.

(e) It is nothing but a delusion and confusion of mind which occurs when a person is involved in mysterious occult activities.

There may look an overlap or commonality between Spirits Intelligence and Mystic Intelligence, however, these two are distinct fields in the sense that getting in touch with the spirit for a specific purpose is different from getting into an altered state of consciousness and realizing the meaning of certain things in the cosmos.

Is there a way to develop a Mystic Quotient (Myst Q) to judge the person's ability if his mystic experience is right or wrong?

Like other sciences which have developed over a period of time, this may also take some time. Since it is a new area of research, this segment of our paper is divided into two sections, (i) description about the facts of Mysticism, and (ii) suggestions on how to develop a Quotient to evaluate intelligence in this area.

(i) Description about the facts of Mysticism

(a) It is observed that mystic ecstasies are of different types, like (1) *theistic*, (2) *monistic*, (3) *Dualistic*, (4) *Pluralistic*, etc.

(1) Theistic Mysticism – In it, the person sees certain shapes of deities and gods he has been worshipping. Sometimes they communicate with him.

(2) Monistic Mysticism – In it, the person realizes that the reality of this cosmos is a single soul or single element based on the unity of souls but there are many smaller gods working under it.

(3) Dualistic Mysticism – In it, the person realizes that the Universe is made up of two elements, good and bad who are at war with each other.

(4) Pluralistic Mysticism – In it, the person visualizes that the Universe consists of multiple elements / deities / gods who are independent. Sometimes cooperate with each other and sometimes fight with each other for territorial supremacy.

From the above, it can be concluded that belief / faith of the person plays a major role in mystic visions or mystic ecstasies.

(b) There are two categories of mystical experiences, namely, (a) External and (b) Internal. In external experience the person realizes a symmetry in the external world. In internal visualization, the person feels nothingness.

(c) It is said that the mystic experiences / visualization can happen all of a sudden without any cause. It can also happen after repeated recitations of certain mantras and hymns.

(d) Some people claim that all religions in the world are truthful. They are known as, (a) *Perennialists*, (b) *Universalists*, (c) *Theosophists*, etc. They claim that mystical experience is a private expression of perennial truths inherent in all religions.

(e) Scientists and Medical researchers say that mystical experience is a neurological process of human mind. The feeling of truth about what they are experiencing is the result of momentary dysfunction of a part of the brain related to interception and self-reflection.

(f) Philosophers suggest that mystical experience is the result of beliefs and practices of the mystic. The experience is shaped by the convictions and expectations of the mystic.

(ii) Suggestions on how to develop a quotient to evaluate intelligence in this area

Like other intelligences, some people are born with the mystic intelligence. But is there a way to develop a Mystic Quotient (Myst Q) to judge the person's ability in this context?

Like other sciences which have developed over a period of time, this may also take some time. Eventually, we should be able to develop a comprehensive Mystic Quotient (Myst Q). Some of the areas to be evaluated in this context are given below.

(a) All the facts given in point (i) above should be kept in mind while developing a Mystic Quotient (Myst Q).

(b) Correct understanding about this Cosmos

As has been described above, three research papers have been published in this context, viz., (1) "Religion – A Historical Perspective", by Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri, *CIFIA Global Journal, Vol 2, January 2021*. (2) "Religion and Secularism", by Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri, *CIFIA Global Journal, Vol 3, June 2021*. (3) "Is there a Conflict between Religion and Science", by Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri, *CIFIA Global Journal, Vol 3, June 2021*.

The above research papers are important read in having correct understanding about our Cosmos. They provide valuable information about this Cosmos and its creator. These research papers have concluded that the original religion of mankind was monotheism of one God who is the creator of this Cosmos. When a person has understood the facts about this Cosmos and its creator, it is easy for him to know what he has visualized or experienced was truthful or spurious. Obviously, if it is not based on corrected knowledge, the mystical experience will not lead him to the truth.

(c) There are many references to this aspect in the Quran.

(1) We (God) will show them Our (His) signs on the horizons and in themselves, until it is clear to them that this is the Truth. Is it not sufficient that your Lord is a Witness over all things? (41-53)

(2) In the creation of the skies and the earth, the alternation of night and day, are signs for the wise. (3-190)

(3) For those who have a firm faith, there are (convincing) signs on this earth, and also in your own selves; can you not see? (51:20-21)

Conclusion

In this research paper the vast areas of spiritual intelligence have been covered in detail which provide an opportunity to people to think logically about their strengths and vulnerabilities in understanding important issues in their lives.

Spiritual Intelligence has been divided into three major areas, (i) Ethical Intelligence, (ii) Spirits Intelligence, and (iii) Mystical Intelligence.

Ethical intelligence is sub-divided into three types, (i) general or relative intelligence, (ii) emotional intelligence, and (iii) moral intelligence.

A detail study was conducted to describe facts about these areas of knowledge and based on these facts we have suggested how to develop Ethical Quotient (Eth Q), Spirits Quotient (Sp Q), and Mystic Quotient (Myst Q) to evaluate the intelligences of people in these areas.

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About the author



Ash Shaikh Mir Asedullah Quadri is well known all over the world for his explanation of Islamic Tawheed, Sahih Iman, Sahih Islam and Sahih Ihsan. He is a scholar, historian and poet. He is the author of Tafseer-e-Asedi, Irshad Al Asedi, Fusus Al-Iman and over 1000 books on various Islamic subjects. He has written many research articles on religion, history and other subjects. He is also the Editor in Chief of CIFIA Global Journal.