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J. KRISHNAMURTI AND SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY

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Abstract

"Science is an imaginative adventure of the mind seeking truth in a world of mystery."

(Sir Cyril Norman Hinshelwood)

Science in its original sense is a word for a type of knowledge, rather than a specialized word for the pursuit of such knowledge. In particular, it is the type of knowledge which people can communicate to each other and share. **Science** *is a system of knowledge that is concerned with the physical world and its phenomena and that entails unbiased observations and systematic experimentation. In general, a* **science** *involves a pursuit of knowledge covering general truths or the operations of fundamental laws. Science includes observation, measurement, classification, quantification, prediction, finding relationship, hypothising, finding relationship, experimenting, controlling variables, and coming to conclusion. Scientists use different ways to explore truth can be called as scientific inquiry. Scientific inquiry is thoughtful and coordinated attempt to search out, describe, explain and predict natural phenomena. This process progresses through a continuous process of questioning, data collection, analysis and interpretation. Thus, Science is based on scientific Inquiry and scientific inquiry starts with simple questioning.*

J.Krishnamurti tells, ***"To ask the 'right' question is far more important than to receive the answer. The solution of a problem lies in the understanding of the problem; the answer is not outside the problem, it is in the problem."***

In this paper the following points are explained: Science as process, Scientific method, scientific Inquiry, Evolution of mind: ordinary mind, scientific mind, Religious mind, spiritual mind, and free mind.

Key Words*: Ordinary mind, Scientific mind, Religious mind, Scientific Inquiry, Free mind.*

Asking variety of questions on natural phenomena like; Why sky is blue?, why star shines?, why leaves are green?, why stems are cylindrical?, where did life come first? and why do we blink our eyes? And so on…… and trying to get the answer through a systematized process. We name this process as scientific process. Science has come from the latin word **scientia**, which means knowledge. Thus science is a systematic study which organizes knowledge from testable explanations and predictions about the natural phenomena. Science starts from a question and ends up with a solution. This life is full of

questions. In the beginning of life child starts asking questions, he may get answer/ not. This habit of asking question is a product of inquisitive mind. Science is the crux of human life.

As per **David Miller (Oct 9, 2018)** Science is the acquisition of understanding. The process is:

1. Look around you.
2. Make an *observation* or a discovery.
3. Wonder about what you have just observed.
4. Come up with some ideas that might explain what you have just observed – some *hypotheses.*
5. Look more closely, ask around, think about it, draw on your experiences, memories and learning, and list your hypotheses in order of which you consider the most likely.
6. Decide to check out firstly the hypothesis on top of your list.
7. Do some *research,* by examining your finding more closely, dissecting, testing, measuring, calculating, in the light of your preferred hypothesis.
8. As a result of that, list those objective findings that stand up as *facts.*
9. Construct a *theory,* assembling the facts that most convincingly explain for you what you have discovered and fit with your best hypothesis.
10. Publish your theory and invite others to criticise it, repeat your experiments, confirm or deny your logical processes, look for more relevant observations, come up with additional facts.
11. Be prepared for the whole thing to prove unverifiable.
12. Start again.

From the above remark science as a process, it is clear that whatever scientists do is Science. Scientists observe the world, get surprised, ask questions, read papers, understand the world, discover something new, solve mysteries, design experiments, prepare model, locate resource, compute tentative idea, evaluate the evidence, establish theories, compute tentative ideas, Consider and compare alternative ideas, calculate uncertainty/ levels of confidence, formulate goals, builds on previous scientific work, explore, gather evidence, collaborate with other scientists, Draw diagram, build instruments, analyze the data, synthesize the data, and apply it to different situations.

All these are processes of science which includes the process skills such as observing, inferring, classifying, predicting, measuring, questioning, interpreting and analyzing data.All these are done through an inquiring mind.

Science as a process proceeds with scientific Inquiry. Scientific inquiry is a thoughtful and coordinated attempt to search out, describe, explain and predict natural phenomena. Scientific inquiry progresses through a continuous process of questioning, data collection, analysis and interpretation. Scientific inquiry requires the sharing of findings and ideas for critical review by colleagues and other scientists. As per (https://tophat.com/glossary/s/scientific-inquiry/) "**Scientific inquiry** refers to the diverse ways in which scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on the evidence derived from their work. Scientific inquiry includes the traditional science processes, but also refers to the combining of these processes with scientific knowledge, critical thinking and scientific reasoning to develop scientific knowledge. **Scientific inquiry** has two primary functions. **Firstly**, it provides a description of how scientific inquiry is conducted in practice. **Secondly**, it gives an explanation of why scientific inquiry successful in arriving at genuine knowledge at the end of its process. Scientific inquiry extends beyond development of process skills such as observing, inferring, classifying, predicting, measuring, questioning, interpreting and analyzing data, which must occur in that order for proper scientific inquiry to happen."

So, Scientific inquiry is a systematically arranged process through which a genuine result is achieved, a fruitful conclusion is attained.

Scientific Inquiry Cycle

Thus, scientific Inquiry includes few steps like

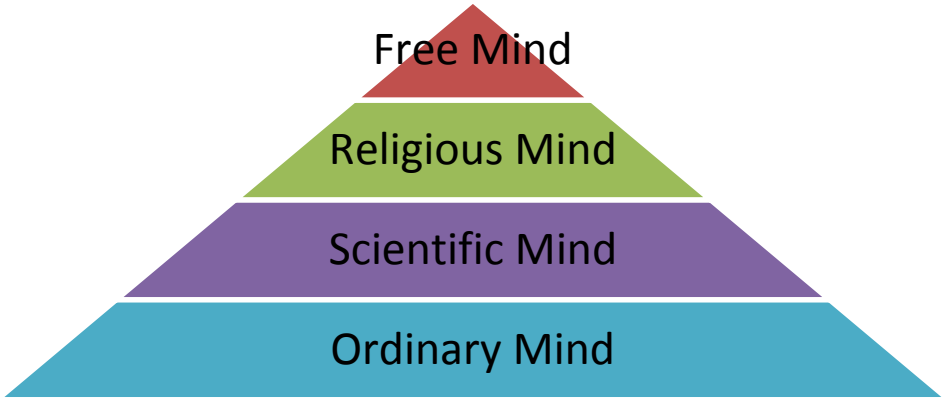
- Observing

- Asking interesting Questions
- Doing the background study
- Framing hypothesis
- Designing experiments to test hypothesis
- Analyzing data
- Coming to the conclusion
- Refining the conclusions

This process continues till a substantial result is not achieved. As per (https://kfa.org/science/) "Science focuses on describing physical reality, consisting of material objects that interact, exchange energy and are separate from one another. This is implicit in the scientific perspective, taken as a given. Science also has taken an interest in the nature of consciousness and its origins, something which is not so easily definable. The word consciousness can have more than one meaning, such as being conscious or aware, or it can refer to our picture of reality. Science in some ways blurs these distinctions, using it to mean awareness and also the experience of 'self'. Underlying various scientific theories of awareness there seems to be a guiding principle or assumption. Awareness is implicitly thought to be a process that "emerges" out of the neural activity of the brain. And this view, in turn, seems to arise from the scientific perspective itself, one that assumes that the material world of separate objects is the ground of all being, with everything proceeding from this. This is understandable because this is what science measures and describes, and this perspective works well in our daily outward living."

For our inward living we need to first take the help of the mind and slowly proceed to the mindlessness. The real purpose (of science) is to discover the laws of nature... The true aim of the religious quest is to come upon a certain order in our consciousness. Through scientific inquiry we get the result which helps us for outward living, gives us social, economical, and may be material pleasure but when we move on the Masslow's hierarchy of needs definitely we will reach at a point where the scientific inquiry will not be able to help us. At that point certainly we will think of a higher inquiring mind which was quoted by Jiddu Krishnamurti. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895 – 1986) born into a Telugu family, he lived next to the Theosophical Society headquarters at Adyar, in Chennai. He then came in contact with influential theosophists, Annie Besant and C.W. Leadbeater, who educated him, believing him to be a future spiritual leader. Later he left theosophical society and started his

own philosophical discourses. He was an eminent writer and speaker on philosophical and spiritual issues, including psychological revolution, the nature of the human mind, consciousness and evolution, meditation, human relationships, and bringing about positive social change. He spoke about fear, freedom, relationship, sensitivity, Awareness, Authority, concern and peace. He was awarded the UN Peace Medal in 1984. He largely spoke about the evolution of mind. Mind needs to be developed, which is the real goal of this human life.



Evolution of Mind

Human being born with an ordinary mind with all positive and negative aspects. He/she dwells in the society to get social, economic and mental satisfaction. Gradually he comes to know about the does and do nots. Our mind is misinterpreted, according to Krishnamurti, and we must start using it differently than it is used, and not as an object for self-protection and self-expansion. We are no more primitive humans, and survival instincts have to be abandoned so as to achieve higher awareness. He talks of how, if society has to remain truly human, it must be in a state of constant revolution and re-evaluation. The mind is being used more for ego-centred acquisitiveness and for personal growth and power, in turn lessening others opportunities. We must try and belong to an *organic* society and not an *organised* one; because an organised society will always follow a hierarchy; and the standards of morality may exist, but not necessarily in the nobler sense like that of an organic society . An organic society means that its members have no choice but to belong to it. However, it goes even further. It implies that they have no desire but to belong to it, for their interests and those of the society are the same; they identify themselves with the society. Unity here is not a principle proclaimed by the authorities, but a fact accepted by all the participants. No great sacrifice is involved. One's place in society may be onerous or

undignified, but it is the only one available; without it, one has no place in the world. The opposite of this perspective, with rights and liberties granted to an individual, is what forms an organised society. (Krishnamurti, 1986)

In science for every phenomenon there is a cause and effect relationship. Similarly, there is a cause for all disorder in our consciousness like fear, jealousy, anger, hatred and violence. So long as the cause exist, the effect also will be there. For this disorder to end a deep insight is essential. Deep insight comes when one have choice less awareness. It is only due to passive awareness, observation and experimentation. For scientific inquiry scientists need a laboratory and varieties of instruments. In Krishnamurti's approach to self-knowledge the entire world is the laboratory, all relationships are experiments in which we can clearly observe ourselves as we are, provided the mind does not distort the observation by projecting its own desires, opinions and cultural conditioning. The mind is the instrument of observation and needs to be free of its conditioning if it is to observe what is without distortion. Learning takes place through the passive awareness of *what exists.* Thus, Scientific mind is more systematic and more concentrated than ordinary mind.

The real purpose of ordinary mind is to live like an animal without knowing the exact goal of life, where as the scientific mind tries to unravel the mystery of the natural world.

As per J. Krishnamurti, we all follow religion without asking any question. Religions first dictum is implicit obedience. This is due to blind belief, past conditioning and fear. We are not supposed to question, because our elders have conditioned us. Whatever rules and tradition is provided in religion are not expected to be questioned. This could be due to fear of elders/ some respect to elders without any reasoning. But a mind should be investigative and scientific. It should be away from conditioning. Gradually the scientific mind moves towards religious mind. Doubt and inquisitiveness are common to both the minds. Both religious mind and scientific mind do not accept the authority. Any scientific finding can be questioned by any other junior/ senior scientists. They are free to question. That is why Krishnamurti denied the guruhood. To him a religious mind is one that lives with questions and not with conclusions, so that it is continually observing and learning. Feynman, a great scientist of this century, advocates essentially the same approach when he states in his essay on the value of science, 'Scientific knowledge is a body of statements of varying degrees of certainty - some most unsure, some nearly sure, but none absolutely certain'. All religious

search begins with a scientific question. Science explores the relative truth but religious mind begins with the search of self –knowledge.

The truth becomes real...only when it is perceived directly... Thus science search for the measurable and observable wheras religious mind tries to uncover the immeasurable. (Krishnamurti, 2008[11]).

As we all know that to understand the truth we have to shed down all conditioning. Normally in our life the way we behave is due to our past karmas, samskaras and deeply imprinted conditioning. All types of suffering is due to our past karmas. Unless a mind is free from all types of conditioning, one cannot look inside. That is why Krishnamurti tells about choiceless awareness and mindlessness. To become free mind is to be free from any thought. On doing so, we free ourselves of the thinker who cages us. Once we destroy this cage of controlled thoughts, man finds a new freedom, which is not a freedom from painful experiences, but a release from the scar these experiences used to leave on the mind. (Krishnamurti, 2000)

With a free mind one can unravel the truth. This is nothing but self-knowledge. When one realizes the truth, he becomes aware. Awareness about how we walk, how we speak, how we talk, and how we think, is necessary. It is with a choiceless awareness that doors shall open and one would know a consciousness in which there is no conflict and no time (Krishnamurti, 1983[5]). Once we change ourselves, we can change society and the world in which we find ourselves. Understanding ourselves marks the beginning of wisdom (Krishnamurti, 1996).This is the real goal of life. Thus, scientific inquiry paves way for wisdom.

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