



SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE IN A CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

Social interactions helps to reap cognitive benefits, it is the process of interactions of a person in relation to biological, psychological and cultural influences. It seeks to develop the laws that govern social relations and the forces that develop the personality of an individual. Social interactions help to exercise peoples' minds and develops the capacity to understand our own and others' actions. People who engage in social interaction displayed higher levels of performance.

In the article, published by Oscar Ybarra, Eugene Burnstein, Piotr Winkielman, Matthew C. Keller, Melvin Manis, Emily Chan, and Joel Rodriguez of the University of Michigan, it is written that the "Mental Exercising Through Simple Socializing: Social Interaction Promotes General Cognitive Functioning," which was published by SAGE in the February issue of Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin. <http://psp.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/34/2/248>.

Social Intelligence is one of the soft skills which maintains friendships, relations, makes us satisfied and happy. It was first developed by the eminent psychologist E.Thorndike in 1920. Later many theories appeared by various psychologists. SI is the ability to react to the social signals properly, monitor, understand and manage personal emotions and adjust oneself into the various social contexts. Development of social intelligence benefits children, persons in many ways such as social, emotional and physical well being.

Key words:- social intelligence, social behavior, social relationships, social roles.



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INTRODUCTION:--

Definitions of Intelligence:- The word Intelligence is derived from the Latin verb intelligere which comes from inter-legere meaning to "pick out" or discern. But the final definition of intelligence is still controversial. Scientists have stated the following: "Individuals differ from one another in their ability to understand complex ideas, to adapt effectively to the environment, to learn from experience, to engage in various forms of reasoning, to overcome obstacles by taking thought. Although these individual differences

can be substantial, they are never entirely consistent: a given person's intellectual performance will vary on different occasions, in different domains, as judged by different criteria.. When two dozen prominent theorists were asked to define intelligence, they gave two dozen, somewhat different, definitions.”- Knowns and Unknowns (1995) termed welfare support, while individuals with high IQs are associated with more years of education, higher status jobs and higher income. Intelligence is significantly correlated with successful training and performance outcomes and IQ.

Definition of Social Intelligence:- Social Intelligence (SI) is the ability to get along well with others, and to get them to cooperate with you. Social Intelligence is all about maintaining social relationships which plays a significant role in an overall development of a person. It is an opportunity to know one self and to know others, is as inseparable part of the human relations and an valuable component of life. Social scientists believe that social intelligence is an aggregated measure of self- and social-awareness, evolved social beliefs and attitudes and a capacity to manage complex social change. It is a capacity to know oneself and to know others is an aggregated measure of self and social-awareness, evolve social beliefs, attitudes and to manage complex social change. Psychologists assert that it is social intelligence that defines us as human beings.. Social Intelligence (SI) is also defined as an ability to get along well with others and to get their cooperation, understanding the social dynamics and possessing self-awareness.

There are four contributing aspects which define social intelligence.

1. **Empathy:** Empathy determines how well one relates to the other people’s thoughts. Empathetic people comprehend and consider other’s ideas and can adjust to their reactions accordingly.
2. **Communication Skills and Mutual Respect:** Under this aspect the ability of a person to listen to people, consider and understand their perspectives carefully, even if they don’t share the same thoughts, understand the emotional behaviour of the speaker, to respond in a proper way, express their views, thoughts and emotions clearly with children and adults as well. Respecting others mean adapting your communication style to accommodate their social background creating a mutual understanding which is a mark of respect.
3. **Behaviour:** This component is concerned about how people carry themselves in social situations. Do they act in an appropriate way according to the situations. Whether they

make others feel relaxed or uncomfortable? A person must be able to change his behaviour whenever necessary and still maintaining their core attributes.

4. **Self-Efficacy:** This characteristic refers to how a person judges themselves on their capacity to perform particular tasks. If someone has a stable sense of self-efficacy concerning social intelligence, they're confident in their social abilities. They experience little stress or worry over interacting with others.

Social Roles and Rules:- These are generally the unspoken rules of various types of interactions and situations as well as how to play an appropriate role in a variety of interactions. People need to act differently at different places and different situation, they perform activities in a particular manner at a particular place and situation.

Understanding Others:- This involves reading the underlying meanings of a conversation and understanding why a person is talking something or behaving in such a such manner. High social intelligence helps to decipher even the most subtle situation. Social intelligence continually develops throughout the life. It can especially be sharpened in children and is easy to teach. Healthy communication keeps everyone happy and satisfied we get to know friends who are empathetic, generous, kind and good listeners.

WHAT DOES SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE MEAN?

Are we aware of the other people's thoughts and feelings? Do you understand why people behave the way they behave or do things? Social intelligence refers to a person's ability to understand and manage interpersonal relationships. It is distinct from a person's IQ and includes an individual's ability to understand the other person's actions and respond according to the feelings, thoughts and behaviour of the other people. It involves emotional intelligence and self-awareness which include knowing when to talk or to listen, what to say, and what to do. Social intelligence builds relationships and encompasses numerous aspects of a person's life. It allows an individual to form friendships and alliances, assists him/her against any kind of exploitation. People with social intelligence can keenly observe other people's faces and know what motivates them.

The Socially intelligent mind discovers that he or she is not a master of his/her own perspective. But he/she is a master of the 'useful' perspective. By creating and using multiple 'useful' perspectives in the situation of the clash of interests. The socially intelligent can protect his/her interests and avoid a confrontation with others at the same time.

What is the Socially Intelligent mind? Understanding what's going on in people's minds is not easy, one cannot look into people's mind This develops as the age advances, it begins at the age of about 3 years. Understanding the other people is achieved at the age of about 4 years (Perner-1992). This is acquired at the age of 5years (Sullivan et al. - 1994). And understanding the causes of other people's behaviour (Kelley, 1971). The capacity of an inhibitory control appears at the age of about 4years (Carlson et.al, 1998; Kochanska et.al, 1996; Polak and Harris, 1999). An awareness of being able to influence other people's behaviour in a desired way- (Bandura 1999; Molle et al.,2001; Stenberg & Ruzgis,1994). The ability to plan and predict real-life events and people's actions (Bailey, 1974). This appears at the age of about 3years.

Hence the Social Intelligence builds over a period of time as a person ages. It is quite useful at a group level also as it allows us to function as humans and social beings since we rely on each other's cooperation. By understanding ourselves and other people, we become able to find ways to collaborate for mutual benefit. Strong and successful leaders possess social intelligence in abundance. It provides leadership qualities to a person. In order to motivate people, leaders need to build relationships and inspire others to do what need to do. Individuals with this strength might be described as:-

Attuned and insightful who with this strength are likely to think, feel, behave by understanding other people and their emotions. They intuitively grasp what people want and why they want it. They understand their own thoughts, feelings, and motivations. They are skilled at getting people to cooperate with each other, able to understand the power dynamics in social situations. They can easily feel when someone is uncomfortable and upset. They become Aware and Empathetic.

Social Intelligence As A Life Skill:-- According to Sternberg's (1985, 1988) Triarchic theory of intelligence which contain practical, creative and analytical aspects, a person attempts to solve the practical problems encountered in the physical and social world. According to Cantor and Kihlstrom (1987), social intelligence is specifically geared to solving the problems of social life particularly managing the life tasks, current concerns (Klinger 1977) or personal projects (Little-1989) which a person either selects for him or herself or the other people impose on him or her.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE IN STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENT

Teachers and parents always have been concerned about children's academic success and social adaptation both in and out of the classroom. But recently researchers have realized that a child's emotional and social life has an impact on their academic outcomes.

We are live in a socially skilled society, we particularly need social abilities to maintain the community. And for that matter students have to develop special competencies in order to survive successfully. As society becomes more and more complex, its intellectual competence becomes more sophisticated. The social intelligence competencies can be defined as intelligence that lies behind the group interactions and behaviours. It can be learned, developed and used as an effective life skill for achievement, managing personal life, interpersonal relationships and achieving success in all the walks of life.

SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:- Besides examining the main effects of social intelligence and academic achievement on socio-metric and perceived popularity, the correlation between social intelligence and academic achievement was tested in a study. It was found that the students who are both socially intelligent and highly achieving are the most well-liked or the most popular students in their school.. Academic achievement is expected to lead to higher status only if it is prioritized in the classroom. In peer groups where academic excellence is the norm, it is expected to lead to popularity. But in classrooms where other skills are prioritized, academic achievement may not lead to popularity or even be predictive of unpopularity. Different types of classrooms may have different associations between academic achievement and popularity.

CONCLUSION: It is understood by the above discussion that for leading a successful life in the society we need social intelligence. Social intelligence helps an individual to develop healthy co-existence with other people. Socially intelligent people behave wisely and prosper in life. Social intelligence is useful in solving the problems of social life and help in tackling various social tasks. Thus social intelligence is an important developmental aspect of education. It is recommended that National Policy of Education should include SI in teacher training programmes in order to enhance Students' and Teachers' social intelligence not only for classroom discipline but also to understand the problems related to students society and their families.

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