

SPIRITUAL KNACK MODEL – THE FOURTEEN DIMENSIONS OF SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE

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ABSTRACT

Like any other area of psychology that attempt to predict and explain human behavior and performance, this research displayed the role of SI in the development of ‘Human Potential’. Spiritual Intelligence is a relatively new realm of psychological investigation and covers a multitude of qualities; its conceptualization has been issue of great concern for today’s social scientists. Each child is born with intellectual potentialities, which grow and develop with maturity and experience. Similarly one is also born with innate spiritual intelligence in terms of one’s level of sensitivity, value learning and processing ability. This is called basic spirituality i.e. basic human qualities of goodness, kindness, compassion and caring. This potential (unlike general intelligence) is to be developed and / or stabilized as a result of one’s experience. The philosophy of Spiritual Intelligence, develops through ‘Shunya’ (Not Zero), this wonderful and unique concept given by India to the world not only in the field of mathematics, but in spirituality as well. More to the point, ‘The Growth Cycle’ / ‘The Stages of SI’ was also explained. The growth cycle, which shows periodic cyclic order of human spirituality, that ascends up, forms ‘Elevation’ then moves down, forms ‘Depression’ or ‘Hollow’, and go on continuously throughout person’s life. It has been stated that on the completion of each such cycle, person enhances his stage of SI. This continued till he become ‘Sthitaprajna’ or remains in a wisdom state forever. Another important concept ‘Spiritual Knack model’ was also obtained out of the result of this research. This 14 dimensional model give detail the important features of Spiritually Intelligent person. The concept of ‘spiritual Intelligence’ was attempted to discuss completely in this phase.

Spiritual Intelligence

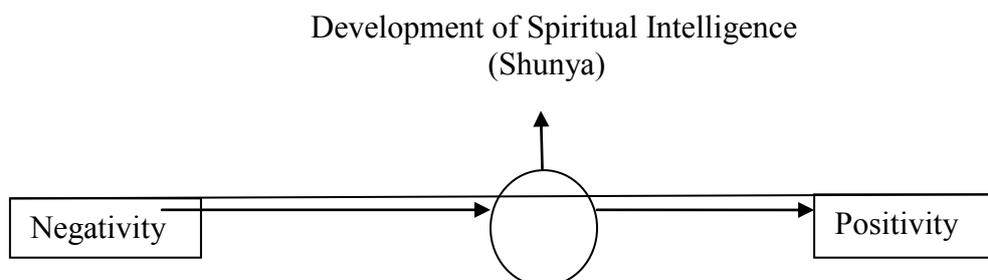
The concept of Spiritual Intelligence develops in ‘Shunya’, (Figure 1.1) where there is no thought, no movement and no existence. Developing Spiritual Intelligence includes and transcends personal growth and reaches the highest level of cognitive, moral, emotional and interpersonal development.

Shunya is very significant and powerful in Mathematics, as any number divided by Shunya results into infinite, but becomes Shunya if multiplied by Shunya. If Shunya is put on the right of any positive number, the value increases ten-fold; the more Shunya we put the more value the number will have. Shunya is not powerless, rather it is very powerful. Both positive and negative emerge from Shunya. For example, both positive and negative energy arise from Shunya and whenever they merge at Shunya, it creates energy and power and this energy can be unlimited.

Figure 1.1 shows that, it is at Shunya, where the creation takes place; for example in the case of electric current, we use two wires – one is negative with no current, another is positive with electric current. Each one separately cannot create anything – no bulb can give light, no machine can run. It means positive alone cannot create; when both merge and contact each

other, which state is neither negative nor positive; it is a state of shunya, and here the creation takes place.

Figure 1.1.
Depicting the development of Spiritual Intelligence in Shunya



In spirituality, state of shunya is very significant. It is the state of perfect balance. When one suffers from negativity, then efforts are made to bring that person to shunya; here his all negativity gets over and his peace of mind is restored. It is a state of *Dhyana* or *Samadhi*, there is neither negative thought nor positive thought, it is a state of thoughtlessness i.e. Shunya. Shunya is when two opposites meet, when two forces balance each other. Shunya is not vacuum; it is full of life and activity. At this stage one can create anything, here the energy is limitless. When Buddha reached this stage, he called this, *Madhya Marg*.

In this stage, no energy is consumed; one can remain in that stage up to infinite, there is no movement, no feeling of time. It is the stage of timelessness. Here a person is made to go to regression, i.e. limitless past; when that past is treated by self, the sufferings stored in the mind gets removed and the result is Shunya from the past sufferings, and cure is reaching the present state of Shunya. Here we can get anything we desire – a good health, a good wealth, full of joy, full of love.

All humans, animals, birds, insects are the result of creation. One has negative aspect and other, the positive, separately they cannot create. When a couple cohabits, both feel joyful. There is no thought; it is a state of shunya in both males and females. Female has egg; the moment germ of semen meets with her egg, creation takes place. Since animals are more nearer to their source or creator, they will not cohabit unless the egg has been created in female womb. For animals, it is more a natural cohabitation; they are always in a state of joy. But, humans have to come to alignment by their efforts. In a state of shunya, we are in alignment with our source / creator. This is whole life, this completes life.

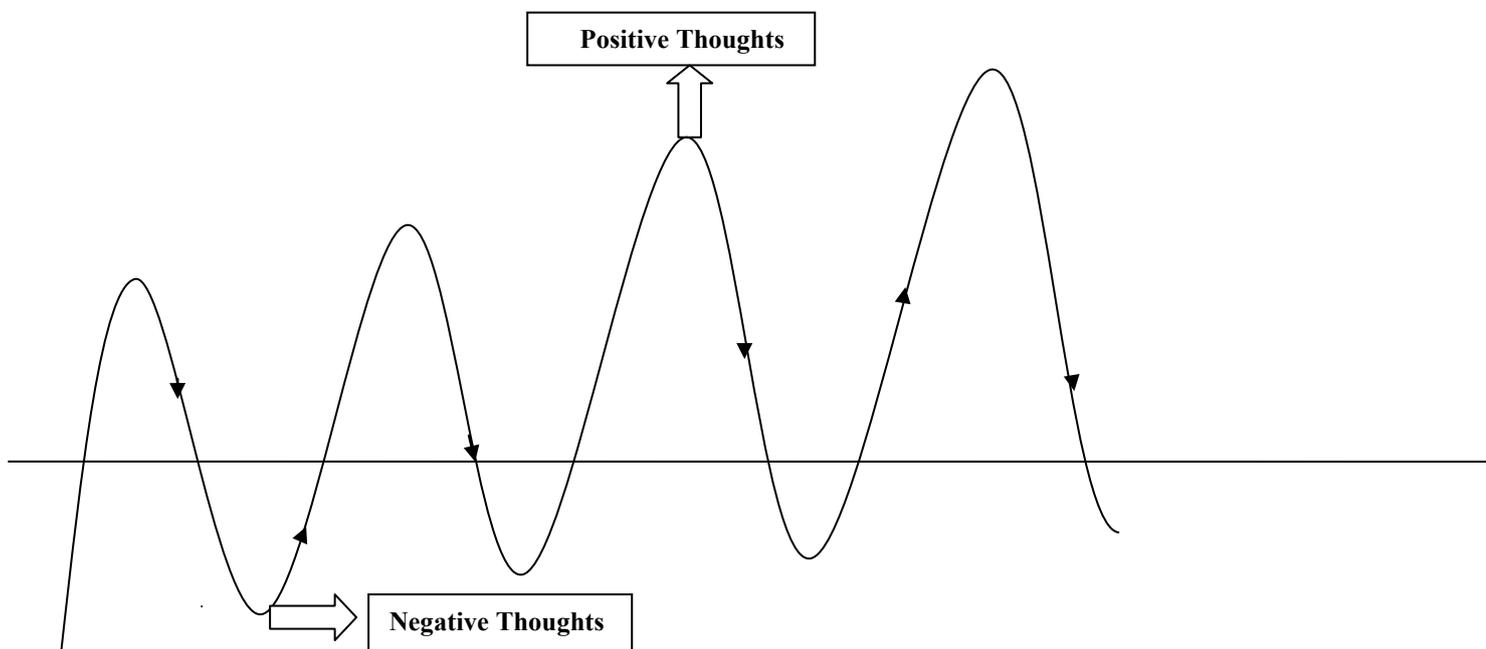
This develops spiritual powers like purity, feeling of clarity, inner peace, blissfulness, acceptance, awakened conscience, finding meaning and purpose of life, healing, etc. One can attain spiritual integrity by recharging his body, mind and spirit with developing close connection with inner self and God and All-that-is. He starts thinking holistically and develops connectedness with the whole world; forgiveness becomes his habit and he starts cultivating wisdom automatically.

Some other traits that go along with that include a capacity for wonder, a tolerance for ambiguity and charity i.e. willingness to engage in service to others. Here a person may still belong to a group, but with the development of spiritual intelligence the circle of empathic identification expands to all people and takes the well being of the whole into account. Here he recognizes his interconnectedness and interdependence; it makes him possible to view the world from multiple perspectives.

The Growth Cycle / Stages of Spiritual Intelligence

The word ‘Growth’ indicates learning and reaching to the higher dimension, whereas the word ‘Cycle’ indicates moving in a cyclic order that is going up and down repeatedly. ‘Human Thinking’ is not consistent all the time; it does rise upward and then slip downward. And the same is happening with ‘Human Spirituality’ too, as both are closely related. Human Spirituality also ascends up and above the line of zero disturbances, and forms an ‘Elevation’. After reaching there it moves downward, and below the line of zero disturbance, it forms a ‘Depression’ or hollow (Figure 1.2). And this way this growth-cycle continues to move throughout.

Figure 1.2
The Growth Cycle / Stages of Spiritual Intelligence



When human spirituality rises upward, above the line of zero disturbances, it is predominated by positive thinking, caring, enthusiasm, full of love for all, or in other words we may say that this time the person is with his inner self / source / God. He goes up as if climbing the pillar of life. But this state may not last long; it comes down by crossing the line of zero disturbances and enters into the negative state, a state full of depression, inactivity, jealousy, anger, revenge, hatred, etc. Here the person keeps surrounded by all negative aspects, and his spiritual level becomes low. And at this state, the dark phase of life, a beam of light / positivity comes and takes the person from the state of negativity towards positivity. The person starts rising up, his entire depression converting into violent behaviour, violent behaviour into aggression, aggression into understanding, understanding into quietness, quietness into enthusiasm, and enthusiasm into full of love; that is, he attains a state full of positivity. But this state will not be stable throughout the life; while dealing with worldly affairs, he gets disturbed and loses his heart; this makes him anxious, which further makes him aggrieved, agitated and jealous, and sometimes violent as well. But still if he does not get

result as per his expectations, he gets depressed; that is, he comes under the grip of full of negativity. This way his positivity and negativity keeps going on and on.

But here the important aspect is that in every cycle, the time interval and the peak point of elevation and depression vary. These variations of time interval and peak positions exclusively depend upon the person's environment and his spiritual practices; if he is living in a spiritually supporting environment and indulging in spiritual practices, then his growth of spirituality will be cyclic as shown in Figure 1.2.

Figure 1.2 points out that these ups and downs continuously go on in his life. In each cycle the extent of intensity and peak position varies. After completing first 'Spiritual Growth Cycle', person attains the 'First Stage of Spirituality'. And likewise in the second cycle, he will reach to the second stage and so on, provided his link with spiritual environment and practice is as mentioned above. After attainment of any higher stage, his entire positivity increases and consequently his negativity decreases. The resultant level of 'Elevation' will be higher and 'Depression' level lower than the previous levels. In the same way, person moves to the higher dimensions throughout his life.

But the 'Spiritual Growth Cycle' will not end with the end of person's life; when he takes new birth, he borrows his spiritual level or characteristics to his next life. In this way his growth-cycle of spirituality continues to move with the number of lives till he attains the state which we call the 'Enlightenment' state, where there is no 'Negative' (negative condition, negative person, negative emotion...) for him. He becomes '*Sthitaprajna*' and remains in a wisdom state forever, whose mental faculties are in a stable state of equilibrium, not affected by attachments and not disturbed by externalities. A Sthitaprajna does not rejoice, nor does he hate.

Spiritual Knack Model

A fourteen-factor solution is selected, based on the original construction of SI theory. A final set of items is selected that most accurately reflected the content of each factor.

Factor Analysis statistical method was applied to get the relevant factors. Application of factor Analysis has been carried out with the help of Principal Component Method and Rotated Component Matrix.

The first factor '**Liberated**' has highest number of loadings. It has ten variables, among them the highest loading of variable 'Gratitude'. The next highest loading was of variable 'Alive'. Another loading of variable 'Compassionate', then was of variable 'Forgiveness', The next significant variable was 'Generosity'. The sixth positive loading of variable named 'Optimism', other significant loading of variable 'Self Assertive'. Next positive loading was of variable 'Personal Responsibility', ninth variable was 'Rich of Energy' and the last significant variable was 'Give Love'.

In second factor, '**Transformative**' there were total five variables which have highly significant loadings. Among them first variable was 'Finding Meaning and Purpose of Life'. Other strong variable was 'Self Absorption' and the third highest loading was of variable 'Empathetic Identification'. The fourth variable was 'Connect with Inner Self' and the last variable of this factor was 'Transformation of life'.

In factor '**Empowerment**', the highest positive loading was of variable 'Ready to face Challenges'. Next positive variables were 'Self Realisation' and 'Thinking welfare of all'. The last significant loading was of variable 'Feeling free from obstacles'.

The fourth factor '**Profound thinker and Visionary**' has three highly positive loading variables, among them the most powerful variable was 'Self Discovery' and the next significant loading was of variable 'Visionary'. The third and last variable was 'Inner Integrity'.

'**Blissful**' was the fifth factor comprised of three variables. Among them, the first significant variable was 'Transcendent Pain'. Next significant variable was 'Cultivating Wisdom' and 'Inner peace' was another significant variable of this factor.

The sixth factor, '**Uprightness**' comprised of three variables. Among them two were positive and one was negative. In positive variables, first one was 'Self Direction' and 'Self Integrity' which was the second positive variable. The other variable with negative loading was 'Cognitive Power'.

'**Existential Clarity**', the seventh factor has four variables, among which three have positive significant loadings and one has negative loading. Highest positive loading was of variable 'Spiritual Integrity' Second highest loading was of variable 'Connectedness', then of variable 'courageous'. This factor has one negative loading variable i.e. 'Self Actualisation'.

The sixth factor, '**Clairvoyance**' has only two highly significant variables; among them one has positive and other has negative loadings. Positive loading variable was 'Intuitive Power' and the variable with the negative loading was 'Self Secured'.

It was observed that the factor, '**Perceptive and Healer**' was a complex factor, consisting of five variables in all. Among them two dimensions were brought into being – one was Perceptive aspect and another one was Healing aspect. The highest positive loading was of variable 'Healing', then was of variable 'Clarity of Thought'. Other variables with significant loading were 'Self discovery' variable, 'Existentialistic' variable and variable 'Finding meaning and purpose of life'.

The factor, '**Serenity**' has significant loading on four variables. The highest loading among them was for variable 'Awaken Conscience'. Other important loading on variable 'Listening'. The next significant variable was 'Recharging Body Mind and Spirit' and the last significant variable was 'Peace of mind'.

In the eleventh factor, '**Enlightenment**' there was two variables with approximate same loadings. The first variable 'Cultivating Wisdom' and the second variable was 'Connect to God'.

In the '**Contentment**' factor, two strong loadings were of variables 'Self Awareness' and 'Feeling Satisfied'.

Another factor '**Perseverance**' was also having two variables of strong loading. One was 'Ready to Face Challenges' and the other variable was 'Transcendent Bond'.

In the last factor, '**Insightfulness**', again two strong variables with approximately equal loading were found. These were 'Self Realisation' and 'Tolerance'.

Figure 1.3
Showing the Spiritual Knack Model



I. *Liberated*

1. Gratitude – This points out his gratefulness towards the whole world.
2. Alive – This shows his lively, energetic and fully conscious nature.
3. Compassionate – It determines his absolute absorption and passion in his entire act.
4. Forgiveness – This tendency assists him to free others from their mistakes.
5. Generosity – This reveals that he is generous for all – all beings and lively beings.
6. Optimism – It proves that he makes himself free from any of the negative past and always thinks for better present.
7. Self Assertive – It explains that the person is free from dependency on others.
8. Personal Responsibility – It exhibits his personal accountability for the betterment of the whole.
9. Rich of Energy – It points out his high energy and power, which displays in his aliveness and enthusiasm.

10. Give Love – It proves that he is full of love inside and consequently offers love to others unconditionally.

II. *Transformative*

1. Finding meaning and purpose of life – It proves person's curiosity to know the significance of his existence.
2. Self Absorption – This shows that he can so much assimilate in his act that he forgets his own self.
3. Empathetic Identification – It reveals that he can be able to identify with others – other's perception, needs, problems, etc.
4. Connect with Inner Self – It discloses the fact that he has strong bonding with higher self.
5. Transformation of Self – This points out that strong bonding with higher self brings change in his perception, thoughts and life objective

III. *Empowerment*

1. Ready to Face Challenge – This shows his empowerment and his inner strength to confront with any of challenging situation of life.
2. Self Realisation – This discloses the fact of his high cognition for realising his true self with all his potentials.
3. Thinking welfare of all – This makes him true 'Human Being' to acquire basic human nature.
4. Feeling free from obstacle – It is proving that he does not get affected by the obstacles or blockages if they come on his way.

IV. *Profound Thinker and Visionary*

1. Self Discovery – This reveals that his cognition is associated with deep observation and thinking, which not only assist him to gain worldly awareness, but also help him unearth and comprehend many of his own resources.
2. Visionary – It indicates his wider vision of interconnectedness of the world in terms of space and time.
3. Inner Integrity – Only profound thinker can understand the gaining aspect of every moment of life in terms of learning aspect; this enhances person's inner integrity and empowerment.

V. *Blissful*

1. Transcendent Pain – This points out the fact that person is able to transcend his physical, mental, emotional and all worldly pain.
2. Cultivating Wisdom – This explains his effort of spreading wisdom in the world.
3. Inner Peace – This proves person's inner harmony and silence.

VI. *Uprightness*

1. Self Direction – This indicates his connectedness with the inner self, which guides him at times of need.
2. Self Integrity – This proves his integration during dark and stormy phase of his life.
3. Cognitive Power – It has negative loading, indicating the difference between intellect (logic, facts, observation) and heart (consider many more other aspects);

upright person listens to his heart first before considering his intellect.

VII. *Existential Clarity*

1. Spiritual Integrity – Existential clarity gives spiritual integrity or vice versa.
2. Connectedness – It indicates connectedness with the inner or higher self.
3. Courageous – Existential clarity makes the person more courageous and empowered that he offers his life to save the ‘Truth’; e.g. Galileo
4. Self actualization – It also has negative loading, which discloses the fact that there is no limit of actualizing oneself, as there is no limit to actualise our own creator.

VIII. *Clairvoyance*

1. Intuitive Power – It is the power of the person to foresee the future, by using his sixth sense; this could be before few minutes, hours, days, years, centuries or yugas.
2. Self Secured – This also has negative loading, showing person’s sense of security on material ground. The more he is connected with materialism, the more he will disconnect with intuition or clairvoyance power.

IX. *Perceptive and Healer*

1. Healing – This feature shows person is able to heal physical, mental and spiritual aspect of self and of others.
2. Clarity of thought – This confirming the simplicity and transparency of his views.
3. Self Discovery – This is illustrating his unearthed persona.
4. Existentialistic – It ascertains the significance of his existence
5. Finding meaning and purpose of life – It explains person’s curiosity to know the significance of his existence.

X. *Serenity*

1. Awaken Conscience – This determines his use of conscience in opinion and behaviour.
2. Listening – It shows his peaceful and accepting nature.
3. Recharging body, mind and spirit – This concludes his high energy due to bonding with supreme power to charge him.
4. Peace of mind – It proves his quiet and serene conditions.

XI. *Enlightenment*

1. Cultivating Wisdom – This explains his effort of spreading wisdom in the world.
2. Connect to God – This connection illustrates his strong acquaintance with the almighty.

XII. *Contentment*

1. Self-Awareness – It shows his awakened conscious level towards all his inner assets.
2. Feeling Satisfied – It demonstrates his total contented tendency.

XIII. *Perseverance*

1. Ready to face challenges – This quality points out his inner strength to confront with any challenging situation of life.

2. Transcendent Bonds – This depicts his inner strength to transcend above any worldly bond.

XIV. *Insightfulness*

1. Self Realisation – This power helps him to go inside for realising his actual self.
2. Tolerance – This assists him to internalise and accept others in totality.

Conclusion

The research application of SI currently being carried out in West resulted in several issues being raised in various areas of SI, particularly in relation to workable definition as well as in relation to the cultural validity of tests used to measure SI.

The primary focus of the present research was to provide some answer to this question in the Indian cultural context. SI research in the Indian context is still in its infancy and much more needs to be done to fully appreciate its relevance to Indian situation. The relationship between culture and SI has been strongly emphasised in literature and the need to explore this further in the Indian context therefore appears valid.

The present research therefore makes three major contributions in the study of SI in the Indian cultural context.

1. Provides conclusive and workable definition of Spiritual Intelligence.
2. Provides Growth Cycle / Stages of Spiritual Intelligence.
3. Provides ‘Spiritual Knack Model’.

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