



## Spiritual intelligence: a gender study in Indian context

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### Abstract

*The purposive study was carried out with a quest to analyze the variation in spiritual intelligence of male and female. It is a descriptive study with self-structured questionnaire comparing the intelligence by different dimensions. The result of study revealed that male and female do vary at some points in terms of perception under various dimensions. Among the selected dimensions of spiritual intelligence, male and females are different in spirituality, emotional intelligence and intelligence quotient. It was carried out with finite factors of spirituality among theist at India. Self-reported scale is used in this paper. Which aimed to understand the general behavior of male and female with extended scope of different corporate strategy for both? It enhances the knowledge about individual's perception towards intelligence & awareness about spiritual intelligence. Spiritual intelligence helps in development of human being which they lack during nurturing of emotional, mental, social adjustment, logical and decision making power and self-awareness.*

**Keywords:** Spirituality, Emotional Quotient, Intelligence, Spiritual Intelligence, Gender.

### Introduction

When we talk about spirituality most of the people will relate it with the relationship with religion or occurrence of super natural powers but it has broader concept hidden within. Spirituality is concerned with the quality of being awakened by the human soul. In simple language it is defined as a sense of doing what is right and what is wrong. Here we analyze about something that has already hidden within ourselves which just need an awakening. Whereas religion tell us to follow an ideology ,tells you the truth god has discovered and spirituality lets you follow your own path being brave and let you believe in your stance towards the perceived things.

If we muddle up these two above terms we'll be introduced to a new topic under which a research has been developed named as spiritual intelligence. Spiritual intelligence is the access to and uses the vision of what we think and what decisions we make.

**Review of Literature - Spiritual Intelligence:** Spiritual intelligence basically means doing what is right and how to do it through the context of knowledge with inner self. In previous spans of time a very refreshing term was introduced in human intelligence. Various researches have done work on human brain where the space amid the neural networks in the temporal lobes of brain was studied and evidence for spiritual intelligence was known then<sup>1</sup>.

**Spiritual Intelligence – Spirituality:** Spirituality refers to a sacred procedure of re-formation which purposes to improve the novel form of human being. Previous researchers acknowledged a relationship between spirituality and intelligence<sup>2</sup>. Spirituality is the bundle of abilities of being involved in practices of

acquiring wholeness, realizing inner potential with purity and holiness, developing day to day problem solving ability and participating in worthy activities like praying and mythological discussions (satsang)<sup>2</sup>. Spirituality is the wisdom and compassionate action of forgiveness, gratitude and humbleness to acquire and practice intelligence for being more capable person<sup>2,3</sup>. These authors have faith in that spiritual intelligence nurtures an approach of questing, inquiry, and practice multiple ways of exploring and integrating inner self through spiritual practices. Some researchers also examined the relationship between intelligence and religion<sup>3</sup>. Religion is a set of beliefs and practices related to spirituality for experiencing inner and outer world as more capable and intelligent human<sup>2,4</sup>.

**Spiritual Intelligence -Emotional intelligence:** Emotional intelligence refers to the capacity of being observant or control, handle own emotions as well as recognize others emotional context to understand the behavior pattern and use the information appropriately. Happiness remains ignored, with research mostly engaged on facets of human unhappiness, such as gloominess, nervousness and emotional disorders<sup>5</sup>. Recently, the imbalance has been corrected and a term called "subjective well-being" (SWB) is used<sup>5</sup>. A new field is introduced for positive psychology for accepting the method of human happiness<sup>5</sup>. A research on quality of life has focused on disruption in well-being connected by worrying or other-intelligent aversive events<sup>6</sup>. Building solid relationships is an objective of socialization process. Socializations process includes all those activities whereby naive individuals are taught some skills; behaviors, values and interactions. It is considered as the most important step in pertaining culture and maintaining relationships with others<sup>7</sup>.

**Intelligence quotient:** The ability to perceive and retain it as a knowledge which we can apply to environment. IQ is one of the ratio's mental age to one chronological age with the ration to be multiplied by 100<sup>8</sup>. Some authors stated that during mental calculation brain get activates through which individual difference mathematical capability<sup>9</sup>. An intelligent person is one who listens actively by using strategies like listening to what speaker says, giving full attention, receiving messages, paraphrasing and reflecting back emotions and information<sup>10</sup>. Best performance occur when a personal action is recognized in high level of cognition. A study on high opinion to self-presenting, subjects were requested to define themselves that is it challenging to amaze or easy to influence a stranger<sup>11</sup>.

## Methodology

Every research needs some procedure or methods to check and infer the thoughts and the concepts. From previous review we identify some prominent factors affecting spiritual intelligence. A systematic methodology is planned for sample survey. Convenient sampling is used for survey method.

**Objectives:** i. To understand spiritual intelligence on individual lifestyle. ii. To study the factors affecting spiritual intelligence. iii. To examine the difference in male and female perception with respect to spiritual intelligence.

**Hypothesis Formulation:** In order to achieve the above objectives following null hypothesis is formulated:  $H_1$  *There is no significant difference between male and female on participation of religious work.*

Similarly  $H_2$ - $H_{15}$  is formulated for remaining measuring items considered in the study.

**Sample and sample profile:** There are 160 responses were found suitable for the research in which 79 female responses and 81 male responses were collected. The respondents are teenagers and young adults from varied location of India.

**Tools:** A structured questionnaire is developed for taking the responses. The questionnaire contains 15 self-developed statements. A 5-point interval Likert scale is used to measure the level of agreement. The two extreme point of the scale are communicated to respondents where 1 is highly disagree and 5 is highly agree. As per our research objective we used Z test for mean difference analysis. The MS Excel and MS Word is used for result analysis.

## Results and discussion

It is essential for every research to have reliable data. The Cronbach alpha is a tool used to check the reliability of data. The co-efficient alpha value of research data is 0.732. For the data to be reliable, its Cronbach alpha value should exceed 0.70<sup>12</sup>. Thus the data in this research is reliable. Thus we can

move ahead for further analysis. By using the Z Test for two tail analysis we have the following result from 160 respondents in a tabular form. The purpose of this study was to test different perceptions of male and female in terms of spiritual intelligence. The result and discussion is divided in sub-sections as

**Accepted Hypothesis:** In this section we tried to highlight the accepted hypothesis. Mean difference between males and females perception for following statements seen similar in our study of measuring spiritual intelligence.

**I participate actively in religious work:** This statement includes the view of respondents on the basis of active participation in the religious work. It was found that female and male mean is 3.24 and 3.41 respectively and z value was -0.96 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance. So we accept our null hypothesis  $H_1$ . We can infer that male and female in the participation in religious work are equivalent. Both male and female thinks similar about religious work participation. Proposal about spiritual intelligence is associated with participation in earnest activities like praying and mythological discussions holds true in our study as well. The mean value of both male and female in present study also acknowledge the theory<sup>1</sup>.

**I feel positive after praying:** This statement comprises the opinion of respondents on the basis of feeling positive after praying. It was found that female and male mean is 4.10 and 3.96 respectively z value was 0.777 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance. So we accept our null hypothesis  $H_2$ . We can say that there is no change was found between male and female perception in praying. Theory supports the positive outcomes of the holy chanting and doing prayers and due to the mean difference between male and female our current study shows same effect like of author<sup>1</sup>.

**I feel every religion is important:** This statement includes the view of respondents related to giving importance to the other religions too. It was found that female and male mean is 4.20 and 4.07 respectively and z value was 0.675 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance. So we accept the null hypothesis  $H_3$ . We can say that there is no variance among male and female acuity in giving importance to every religion.

There is relationship between intelligence and religion. Religion is a set of beliefs and practices related to spirituality for experiencing inner and outer world as more capable and intelligent human, thus their theory intends to give comparable result as our existing study's mean values of male and female<sup>4</sup>.

**I believe humanity is ultimate religion:** This statement consist of the view of respondents on the basis of believing that humanity is the ultimately the only religion and being human to everyone is more important. It was found that female and male mean is 4.316 and 4.185 respectively and z value was 0.747 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance.

We can say that our null hypothesis is accepted  $H_5$ . We can say that there is no alteration between male in addition to female perception of humanism concept.

Spirituality is the bundle of abilities of being involved in practices of acquiring wholeness, realizing inner potential with purity and holiness. It is the wisdom and concerned action of forgiveness, gratitude and humbleness to acquire and practice intelligence for being more capable person<sup>3, 2</sup>. In present study the findings supports these authors as the mean value of male and female have the similar influence.

**I feel joy and happiness:** This statement includes the view of respondents on the basis of being happy, what is true happiness to them, what they feel in their daily life. It was found that female and male mean is 4.203 and 4.025 respectively and z value was 1.097 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance. We can say that null hypothesis  $H_6$  is accepted.

We can draw conclusion that there is no difference in the perception of male and female thought process of feeling joy and happiness. Happiness is always being ignored as research topic so recently this imbalance has been corrected and a new term has been introduced called subjective well-being (SWB) which accepts methods of the human happiness for achieving spiritual intelligence<sup>5</sup>.

**I keep a diary of events happening in life:** This statement contains the view of respondents of keeping a record of life events that affect their life. These events are close to their heart and have an impact for lifetime. It was found that male and female mean is 2.392 and 2.494 respectively and z value was -0.475 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance. We are able to say that here is no variance between male and female perception regarding keeping diary for the records of events. Authors focused on quality of life which is stated in study and supports our present study too<sup>6</sup>.

**Table-1:** Mean Difference Analysis.

Sl.	Statements	Mean Value		Z	Result
		Female	Male		
$H_1$	I participate actively in religious work.	3.241	3.420	-0.965	Accepted
$H_2$	I feel positive after praying.	4.101	3.963	0.777	Accepted
$H_3$	I feel every religion is important.	4.203	4.074	0.675	Accepted
$H_4$	I believe in the existence of soul after death.	3.392	3.815	-2.077	Rejected
$H_5$	I believe humanity is ultimate religion.	4.316	4.185	0.747	Accepted
$H_6$	I feel joy and happiness	4.203	4.025	1.097	Accepted
$H_7$	I keep a diary of events happening in life.	2.392	2.494	-0.475	Accepted
$H_8$	I am very good at tasks that require coordination.	3.797	3.889	-0.566	Accepted
$H_9$	Mental calculation is easy for me.	3.165	3.802	-3.961	Rejected
$H_{10}$	I am excellent listener.	3.810	3.790	0.117	Accepted
$H_{11}$	I can work and solve complex problem.	3.658	3.840	-1.176	Accepted
$H_{12}$	I can sense if someone is not happy with me.	4.253	4.012	1.589	Accepted
$H_{13}$	I build solid relationships with those I work with.	3.759	3.951	-1.266	Accepted
$H_{14}$	I can influence people.	1.506	2.037	-2.799	Rejected
$H_{15}$	I feel that people around me are less intelligent.	1.899	2.407	-2.651	Rejected

At 5% level of significance

**I am very good at tasks that require coordination:** This statement includes the view of respondents on the basis of participation in work which requires coordination and adjustment with other people. It was found that female and male mean is 3.797 and 3.889 respectively and z value was -0.566 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance and male and female feel same for their view that they can do tasks that require coordination.

**I am excellent listener:** This statement includes the view of respondents how good they are at listening to other people with an active behavior. It was found that female and male mean is 3.810 and 3.790 respectively and z test the value was 0.117 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance. Hence, male & female keenness of being an excellent listener are alike. Authors gave importance to listening behavior for spiritual intelligence alike in present study as mean of respondent is sufficiently favoring the work of previous researchers<sup>10</sup>.

**I can work and solve complex problem:** This statement includes the view of respondents on the basis of solving complex problems when required. It was found that female and male mean is 3.658 and 3.840 respectively and z value was -1.176 which falls under acceptance region at 5% level of significance and null hypothesis is accepted. There is no dissimilarity between male and female opinion that they both can work and solve very complex problems.

**I can sense if someone is not happy with me:** This statement comprises the view of respondents if they can sense if someone is not happy with them or they hate them. It was found that female and male mean difference is 4.253 and 4.012 respectively z value was 1.589 at which falls in acceptance region 5% level of significance. Male female feel same for observation of being able to understand that both can work and solve complex problems. The statement is self-reported.

**I build solid relationships with those I work with:** This statement embraces the view of respondents on building solid relationships with people they work with in professional life. It was found that female and male mean difference is 3.759 and 3.951 respectively z value was -1.266 values which falls in acceptance region at 5% level of significance and null hypothesis is accepted. There is no alteration between male and female awareness about edifice interactions with peers and co-workers. Socialization is considered as the most important step in pertaining culture and maintaining relationships with others<sup>7</sup>.

**Rejected hypothesis:** This section discusses the rejected hypothesis of our study. Mean difference between males and females perception for subsequent statements seen different in present study of spiritual intelligence.

**I believe in the existence of soul after death:** This statement takes in the view of respondents in the existence of soul after

death. It was found that female and male mean difference is 3.392 and 3.815 respectively z value was -2.077 which falls under the rejected region at 5% level of significance and there is variation between male and female perception about the statement. For the self-reported statement existence of soul after death, female were more prone in comparison to males on level of agreement. They believe in the near to death experience and male and female feel differently in their mythological processes as male mean value 3.851 is significantly larger than female mean value.

**Mental calculation is easy for me:** This statement contains the view of respondents for mental calculation. It was found that female and male mean difference is 3.165 and 3.802 respectively z value was -3.961 and which falls under the rejected region at 5% level of significance and there is difference between male and female perception concerning the statement. It was found that female were less interested in the mental calculation whereas male feel ease at it<sup>9</sup>.

**I can influence people:** This statement consists of the view of respondents for the influence they can draw for people around them. It was found that female and male mean difference is 1.506 and 2.037 respectively z value was -2.799 which falls under the rejected region at 5% level of significance there is difference between male and female awareness regarding the statement. It was found that male agree that they draw influence people more than female. Influential behaviour it has been observed that male and female disagree that they can influence people. A difference has been found between them and which supports the study on difficulty level of impressing people<sup>11</sup>.

**I feel that people around me are less intelligent:** This statement excludes the view of respondents that they feel people around them are less intelligent and are not comparable fit in terms of intelligence. It was found that female and male mean difference is 1.899 and 2.407 respectively z value was -2.651 which falls under the rejected region at 5% level of significance and there is variance concerning male and female perception as regards the statement. Judging people on basis intelligence. A self-reported statements has been made in which difference has been observed between male and female perception. Both male and female disagree to this point with mean vale of 1.899 and 2.407 respectively where female feel bit different with their view from male.

## Conclusion

The objective of the research paper was to understand and analyze the spiritual intelligence on life style of male and female. The male and female perception is dissimilar on existence of soul, mental calculation, influencing people and comparing intelligence. The factors like participation in religious activity, exploring optimism, identifying happiness in self and others factors are alike in male and female with higher mean values. The spiritual intelligence is newly explored

concept with vast scope of exploration. The present study provides insight to forth coming authors and researcher to work in this domain. The present study has some limitation like narrow sample size. The results may vary in geography as certain areas of respondents are included. The mood and affects of study also influence the study. The managers can perform replica of present study with random sample for understanding spiritual quotient of employee. The present study also helps in counseling and mentoring of person.

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