



MANAS

Speaks

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Children's Mental Health Matters!

#ChildMentalHealth

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Childhood Trauma

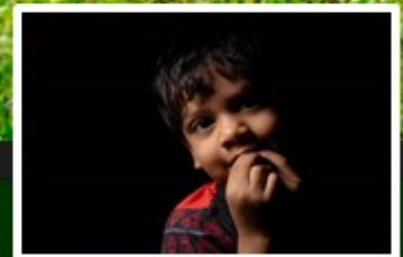
IVF Child

Giftedness

All about ADHD

Temper Tantrums

The Academy of
Psychology



THE ONLY JOURNEY IS THE JOURNEY WITHIN

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MANAS *Speaks*

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Manas Speaks is a monthly magazine from Manas-The academy of psychology, to publish a wide range of conceptual articles relating to different perspectives on methodologies in psychological research and to support student communities to strengthen their knowledge.

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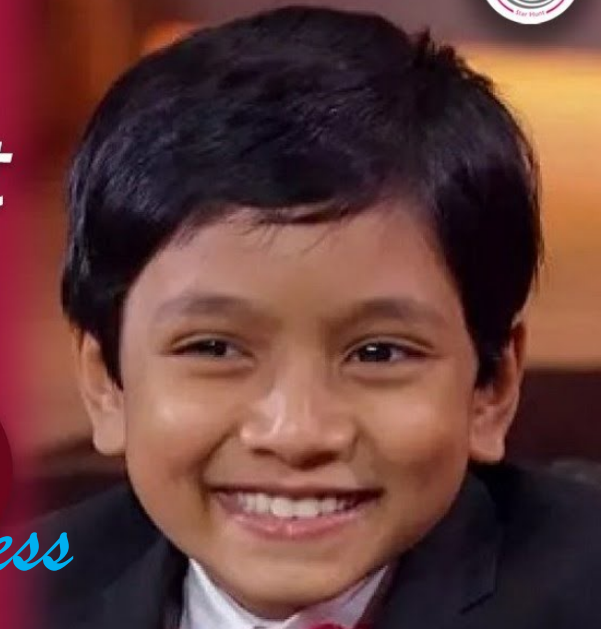
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Meet the World's Youngest Professor:

Soborno Isaac Bari *Perspectives on Giftedness*



"It is necessary to aver that the ideas of the philosophers and the results provided by the neurobiologists all believe that the roots of giftedness lie within an individual. Here in this article apart from the individual's innate ability, the role of environment and other external factors required to achieve excellence has been emphasized."

Most of the eminent personalities such as Albert Einstein, Rabindranath Tagore, Ramanujan, Shakespeare, John Keats, and Russell – all were gifted individuals in different areas, but they all had some common area of interest and unusual way of doing things. They all had an intense inspiration to achieve the highest perfection in their lives. Giftedness is a broader concept, which signifies excellence not only in a specific field or discipline but also in other related areas. Human excellence as postulated by various theories is not flaccid. Self – actualization emerges as the central concept of all these themes. Fundamental to self-actualization, in all themes, are self-reliance and self-confidence.

Piaget, the most outstanding exponent of cognitive development views giftedness as the innate quality, which is enhanced through a child's experiences. Experiences are those situations, which emerge from the environment. The environment includes both nature and society. Those who are close to their environment get more exposure to nature and more experience from society. The more ameliorate the experiences are, the more is the level of maturity leads to a deeper understanding of life and the world around.

Vygotsky viewed excellence as the highest level of cognitive development. According to him, giftedness is the highest stage of development, which is a continuous process of development of interpersonal and intrapersonal relations. An individual's inherent qualities, his everyday experiences of life, right guidance from members of society help him to direct his thought and action for better cognitive faculties and towards the highest level of excellence.

Carl Rogers, a humanistic psychologist viewed human excellence as a fully functioning personality. He believed that as man lives in society, his personality is bound to be influenced by society. Only a stimulating environment directs him towards self-responsibility, empathy, co-operation, adjustment and maturity, which are synonymous with human excellence.

The concept of Multiple-intelligence coined by the psychologist Gardner opens up a new facet to the concept of human abilities. According to him those who have extraordinary abilities are allied gifted or genius. He considered giftedness as an internalized process, involving inner motivational force, specific abilities and creativeness. He felt that a person can be claimed gifted only if he knows the realms of a common man.

Maslow was also very optimistic about human nature. Maslow believed in the hierarchy of needs: basic needs and higher-order needs which emerge from the interaction between individuals and society. When basic needs get fulfilled one strives for higher needs, which further leads to human excellence.

Swami Vivekananda believed that the man is an infinite source of knowledge and strength. He believed that through concentration the power of knowledge can be acquired, thus leading the man on the path of excel-

Aurobindo believed can maintain a balance and their abilities. also propounded that concentration helps in the creative illumination to achieve excellence.

Neurobiologists looked upon giftedness as a complex function of our brain. The development depends on genetic factors as well as a healthy diet and stimulating environment. Effective teaching, intensive training, thought-provoking change the children



making them biologically different from average learners and thus are called 'gifted'. Environmental incentive along with biological development leads to an effective and efficient neural system. This effective integration of the brain helps in more insightful, intuitive and creative thinking, thus enhancing one's ability to create and learn terming them as 'gifted'.

Hence, analysing the various theories stated we find a close association among them. Whether it is the idea of philosophers or concepts given by psychologists or results proved by neurobiologists, all believe that the roots of giftedness lie within the individual. But a healthy, motivating environment also provides the right nurturance to the individual to achieve excellence in their respective fields.

Dr Madhavi Royyur

