



Seed Thought On Religious Harmony Through Philosophy Of Science And Religion / Spirituality Module In Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT-World Peace University Students; A Quantitative Analysis

Abstract:

Technological advancements have significant implications for society and emphasizes the need for a well – rounded education that goes beyond technical skills. The focus on global awareness, environmental impact, social and political considerations, and professional ethics reflects the growing recognition of the interconnectedness between various disciplines and the need for a comprehensive understanding of the world's challenges. By incorporating these aspects into the curriculum, Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT-World Peace University aims to prepare students to navigate complex societal issues and contribute to sustainable and inclusive progress. MIT WPU's vision of "Powering the future" through education, innovation, and culture indicates a commitment to creating a positive impact on society. By equipping students with the necessary knowledge and skills and fostering a sense of social responsibility, the university aims to drive sustainable and progressive transformation.

The first part of the paper focuses on the teaching and learning of the core concept of Religious Harmony through Philosophy of Science and Religion / Spirituality. Statistics and components of the module being taught at UG and PG level at Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT-World Peace University, Pune are presented. The quantitative analysis would be based on a questionnaire. This part focuses on collecting data, circulating the questionnaire to a minimum of 300 students who had studied the module in the recent past. The quantitative analysis of the data shows that the module's comprehension of religious correlations, instilment, and understandability is underscored by a significant positivity rate.

Keywords: Religious Harmony, Science, Spirituality, Seed thought

Introduction:

Increasing exchanges and interactions across religions, as well as a stronger trend toward religious diversity, are creating new opportunities and challenges for the management of religious relations in today's globalized world. As people of different religions have more opportunity to connect with one another, there is a greater likelihood that they will be supplied with resources to help them learn from one another and collaborate more successfully. Throughout the course of human history, particularly in specific eastern countries and regions, we have amassed a vast amount of knowledge and experience relevant to a range of distinct civilizations. On the other hand, religious conflicts and even wars are on the rise, despite the tendency toward religious diversity that encourages peace and interaction. Despite the fact that religious diversity is driving the trend, this is the reality. As a direct result of rising religious diversity, individuals in various nations and areas are developing a growing mistrust of those who practice different religions. This has fueled apprehension on the possibility of fresh religious wars.

Need of the Study :

2.1 India and Integration:

People from different religions are also getting married more often in India, which shows that the country is becoming more religiously tolerant. These marriages help to break down religious barriers and encourage people of all faiths and backgrounds to understand and get along with each other.

On the other hand, India has had religious tension and war, just like any other country with a diverse population. In the past few years, violence and intolerance based on religion have happened in many different parts of the country. If the country wants to keep its religious communities from fighting with each other, it must deal with situations like these and encourage dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect among its many groups.

2.2 Tolerance and Harmony:

Since ancient times, Bharat has been a spiritually peaceful place. Bharatiya philosophy is based on religious freedom, tolerance, and harmony. "Let noble thoughts come to me from all directions," the Vedas say, and this is

definitely something Bharatiyas are born with. Sanatana Dharma tells us to respect the living things and nature around us.

Bharat has seen its share of different religions. Sanatana Dharma has been the basis for many schools and religions, and it has welcomed and made room for a large number of them. A lot of smart people took long detours away from the main path. The leaders of these new religions pushed for new ways of thinking and acting. Why did they have to make a new religion and spread it? People in India didn't make these religions out of pride or self-interest, and they also didn't do it for practical reasons. It was the result of smart investigations. For example, Nanak Dev, the first guru of the Sikh religion, helped his followers in both material and spiritual ways. During his rule, this proved to be a good way to get a lot of his followers together.

2.3 Universal Acceptance:

Many various subcultures make up Indian society. Because of the wide variety of religions, civilizations, and languages that can be found in India, this nation holds a very important place in the world. There is no other place in the globe where we can acquire such a comprehensive selection of goods.

It's possible that the first step toward getting along with other people is to acknowledge and respect what they think. People who adhere to other faiths need to engage in meaningful conversation with one another if there is to be any hope of achieving world peace. People who adhere to a variety of religious traditions have been gathering for a considerable amount of time. In order for these groups to achieve genuine progress, they need to reach a consensus on a number of concepts, the most crucial of which is that there is no single correct way. We are already familiar with the way in which the religious traditions of the Indian people continually circle back around to the concept that whatever path one takes on the land might be considered legitimate. Not only does it teach about the One Truth, but it also includes a number of traditions that back it up and explain what it means. These traditions have been passed down from generation to generation. Every religion ought to investigate the foundation from whence their knowledge originates and unearth the teachings of their faith that point to a logical beginning point, such as the fundamental acknowledgement that all possible routes lead to the same destination. The establishment of a strong commitment from political leaders to the achievement of this critical objective helps

to provide a solid foundation for a peaceful society and nation. It's possible that acceptance will have a more significant impact than tolerance.

Research Methodology:

MIT World Peace university, Pune aims to be a leading University of Excellence, promoting the “Culture of Peace” through Value-based “Universal Education System”, with a firm belief that “Union of Science and Spirituality alone will bring peace to mankind”. In view of this mission, a dedicated Peace department was established. Under this department various subjects were created to inculcate the mission in the young minds of the students. These subjects were credit based courses, compulsory for all students in all streams. The assessment of the students is done on the basis of varied parameters in the form of assignments and exams.

The spectrum of subjects including Philosophy of Science and Spirituality / Religion is given to the PG students. As a part of the study curriculum at MIT-WPU, a module covering various topics like the basic introduction to Vedas, doctrines in Upanishads, moral and ethical stories in Puranas, and religions of the world has been introduced. The objective of this module is to enable the youth to excel in their personal and professional lives by making them culturally aware and compassionate towards each other in this globalized world. The module will also add maturity in their personal and professional lives by examining different worldviews and evaluating their strengths and weaknesses.

To assess the students' opinions on the module, a survey was conducted. The survey aimed to get an insight into the students' opinions on the module and its relevance. Based on that we have done analysis of data of 200 students. A few questions were asked like do you think it is essential to orient young minds on the core philosophy of world religion, do they know basic tenets of religion, do you think it would help young minds in the long run to build harmony and interfaith.

The research was conducted to find the views of students about “Philosophy of Science and Religion/Spirituality” and their understanding about the religion. The students were asked if the introduction to different religions was helpful to them to understand the ideologies of each religion, 99% of the student responded positively to the question. The response is then confirmed upon when we see that students who weren't aware of the basic tenants

practiced in the religion that followed and the one's those were aware got to know more about their religions and others.

Results and Discussion:

The following observations can be drawn with the data collected from 200 students. In these charts, attendance and responses about Student's interest in learning this subject are compared. 84 students who attended 75% of lectures think that they have developed an interest in this subject as a result of this module.

1. The number of students who agreed that the introduction to different religions was helpful to understand the ideologies of each religion is 99.5%.
2. 81% students were aware of the basic tenants practiced in religions that they follow.
3. A total of 120 students believe that the module effectively instilled a significant level of awareness regarding interfaith understanding and religious tolerance.
4. 101 students were able to correlate, understand and instill some of the core principles of the religion that they follow, or others follow.
5. 117 students think that the faculty allotted to them was excellent, 72 students think that the faculty was Good and that students benefitted from the content delivery by the faculty.

Conclusion:

After the detail study of the responses and the results observed from the various charts, following conclusions can be drawn

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1. When asked about “interfaith and religious tolerance through the model” in the 2nd chart, 70% of students instilled awareness about it.
2. When asked about the understanding of religious ideologies about different religions 90% students “Agreed” to the helpfulness of the model taught.

Thus, we can see that the maximum number of students responded in a positive manner to the questions asked about the module. High number of positivity rate is seen for the understanding of the module about the religious correlation, instilment and understandability.

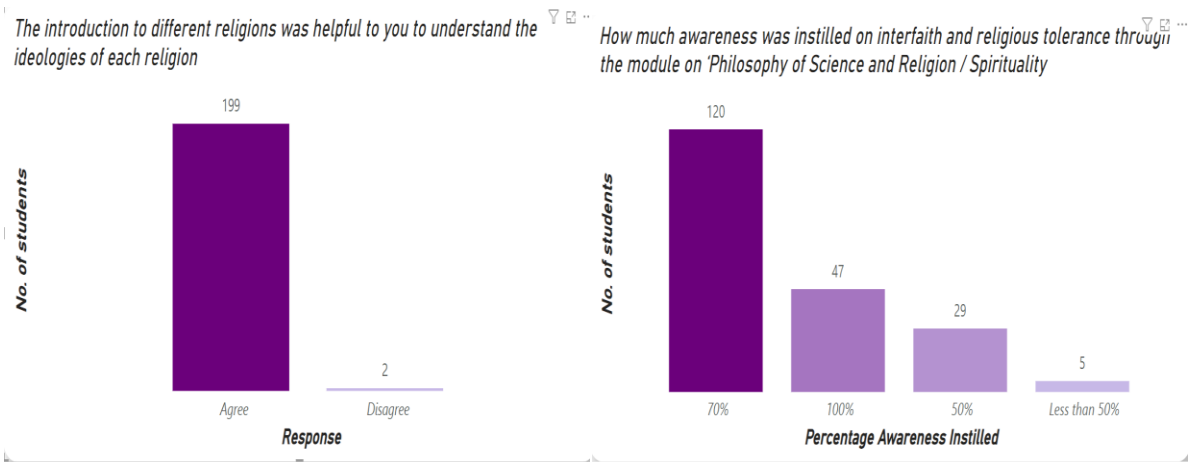


Fig 1 Observations from response 1

Fig 2 Observations from response 3

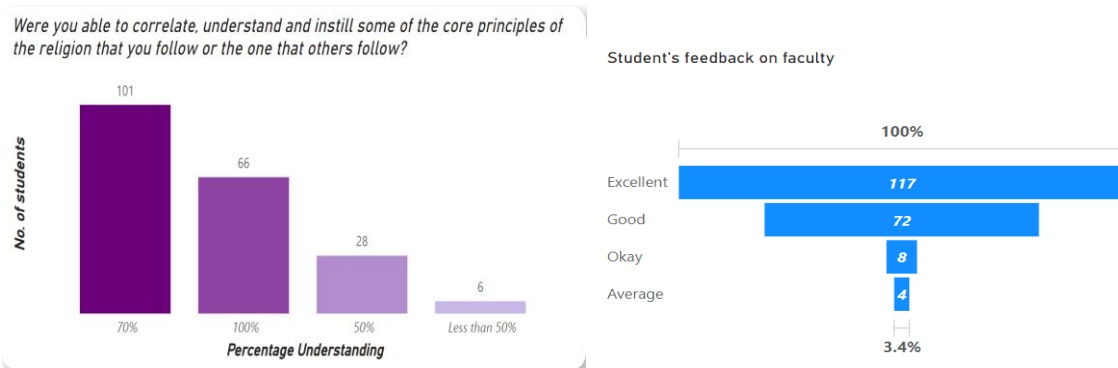


Fig 3 Observations from response 4

Fig 4 Observations from response 5

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