

THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING FOR A SUBLIME LIFE

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ABSTRACT

In this world, to accomplish any goal, we need to work systematically. Without learning the process, it's quite difficult to reach the set goal. While learning anything, we may face failures or commit mistakes, but, here one must know that 'committing mistake is the process of proper learning'. From our mistakes, we come to know about the ways or approach, which are not to be repeated again. It means, the chances of mistakes reduces simultaneously and we reach closer to our goals.

Keywords: *Sublime Life, Advancement of Learning, Future Learning, Theological Truth.*

Introduction

To define the word 'learning', we can say that,

"a process that leads to change, which occurs as a result of experience and increase the potential for improved performance and future learning" (Ambrose et al, 2010,p.3). After learning, the change may happen at the level of attitude, behaviour or knowledge. When a learner sees concepts, ideas, and/or the world differently, it is nothing but the outcome of 'learning'. It is well understood that learning is not something done to students, but rather something students themselves do'. It is the direct result of how students interpret and respond to their experiences.

In 'The Advancement of Learning' (1605), Francis Bacon attempted to draw a distinction between the 'theological truth' and the 'scientific truth.

"The theological truth is drawn from the word and oracles of God and determined by faith. The scientific truth is based on the light of nature and dictates of reason".

"(Andrew Sanders: The Short oxford History of English Literature). So, the second one is still relevant and will remain a truth, which cant be under rated ever. Without knowing the reason behind any concept or idea, a student will not accept that at any cost. This is the reason Bacon's views and research about learning are still relevant and meaningful.

Bacon, always wanted to enhance the knowledge and the learning capacity of a person in his own may. There are many challenges, which students may experience during the process of learning. They may be cognitive, motivational or affective challenges. We need to know that how these aspects impact the learning process. Cognitive aspects of learning refer to the thinking processes and the mental procedures involved in learning anything.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, gives the formula of learning anything, which is so easy to apply by anyone. He suggests us the 'process of achieving success' in like. Dr. Kalam says:

"Learning gives creativity,
Creativity leads to thinking,
Thinking provides Knowledge, and
Knowledge makes you great." [Kalam, A.P.J. Abdul. Former president of India.

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Therefore, to become great, we need to begin with learning, which will provide a creative mind, and the creative mind will lead to good thinking capacity. Our thinking capacity will provide knowledge and the acquired knowledge will make us great. We have to dare to imagine the impossible, then only we will be able to break all the human limitations. The principles of learning and gaining Knowledge may be different by various philosophers, but the important thing is that, 'what is the outcome from that learning?' It's like a tree which must have fruits, otherwise no one will plant that tree. So, being meaningful and fruitful is the most important outcome of any learning or knowledge. Our learnings and knowledges must be for public good, it should not be limited for the private good only.

Bacon's thinking is sublime, therefore, he reveals in one of his best works, entitled "The Advancement of Learning" (1605); the difference between pure and proud knowledge, which can be understood by the following points :

- Pure knowledge is the kind of knowledge about the natural world that benefits people.
- Pure knowledge is inspired by wonder, a sense of awe in the vast mysteries of the universe.
- Pure learning inspires a person to understand the word of God, while also protects him or her against conceit and sloth.
- On the other side proud knowledge is the kind of knowledge that causes person's fall from grace.
- Proud knowledge, according to Bacon, leads to Atheism, the 'belief that there is no God'.

It is also observed that Bacon has talked about the importance of 'reality'. He says that, "Man loved knowledge rather than reality," It is dangerous to seek truth in man's own words; seeking truth in the 'great and common world' is preferable. Man must look to 'creation for knowledge', because 'creativity' and 'curiosity' lead anyone to perform his best ever works.

Bacon is at his best when writes, in "The Advancement of Learning", the following lines :

"The Spirit of Man is as the
Lamp of God, Wherewith he
Searcheth the Inwardness of
all Secrets."

It is the duty of men to search himself inwards and to bring out the best out of him. One must find the best version of himself or herself, so that, he or she has no regret in life. Everyone wants to spend life in a good and respectful manner. To live life happily, one needs to gain knowledge, so that he can do things in a better and errorless way. When someone commits less error, then he will live a happy life. We must not waste our time, because it never comes again for anyone in the world. We must know the power and importance both knowledge and time, which are the two wheels of a 'vehicle called life'.

Albert Einstein, the great scientist, has emphasized on the importance of learning and continuously life. Einstein says:

"Once you stop learning,
you start dying".

The above two lines are the zest of life forever. We must have the willingness to learn, only then we can understand the universe. Our life skills make us perfect in any field of life. A good learning sharpens our mind and shows the unseen paths of the life. Therefore, Henry Ford, says:

"Anyone who keeps learning, stays young."

So, our learning must be on a daily basis, or we can say every moment we may learn to master ourselves. We should not forget that 'learning never ends.' It is a continuous process.

Sir Francis Bacon has been known as the 'father of empiricism', which means 'a theory that states that knowledge comes only or primarily from sensory experience' in Empiricism' emphasizes the role of 'evidences based on experience' in the formation of ideas, rather than traditional ideas. Basically, all of our knowledge comes through the use of the five senses', and that is what 'empiricism' is all about.

While, we are talking about learning and knowledge in this article, it is important to consider Bacon's theory of empiricism', then only our discussion will be completed. Human's have five sense organs, which is a universal truth; and with this universal truth; Bacon has made himself a universal personality by giving the 'theory of empiricism, to the world literature. To understand this theory we may see the following diagrammatic explanation:

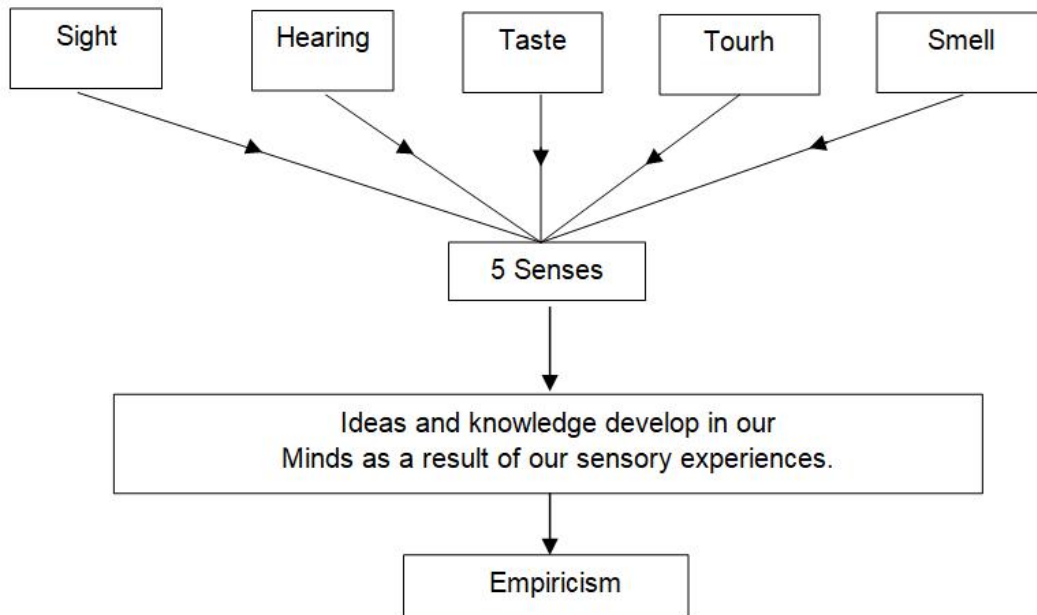


Fig. 2: The Theory of Empiricism by Francis Bacon

Therefore, 'empiricism' is a theory based on the claim that experience is the source of knowledge. All of our five senses are responsible for our the real knowledge we gain. But, it does not mean that innate principles are of no use. We need to use and enjoy every rule and principle according to our needs in life. But, when it comes to the knowledge, we must follow the 'theory of empiricism'.

Finally, after all these discussion about learning and knowledge, we must thank Francis Bacon along with all those great philosophers and persons who have given their thoughts on 'how to learn and gain good knowledge for a better and sublime life?" Because, it is possible that one may not have a higher educational degree, but from his or her daily-life-experiences, one can lead and live a happy and meaningful life throughout.

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