

Bhagavad Gita a key source for Management thoughts–An analysis

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Abstract

‘The Bhagavad Gita is essence of Indian scriptures like the Vedas, the Upanishads and the puranas. The Gita teaches various paths to gain self knowledge on inner peace. This was influenced by many leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and others. The study highlights how it influences modern human life especially Generation Y and Z. The study also try to analyze how Bhagavad Gita supports to develop some of the Management thoughts which have highlighted in the modern world which are key for success of any individual and enterprise.

Key words : Bhagavad Gita, Self knowledge, Generation Y, Management thoughts

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1. Introduction:

Bhagavad Gita a key source for Management thoughts–An analysis

‘The Bhagavad Gita’ literally means songs of lord. It is essence of Indian scriptures like the Vedas, the Upanishads and the puranas. The Gita teaches various paths to gain self knowledge on inner peace. It is a complete guide to medical life and provides “All that is needed to raise the consciousness of man to the highest possible level”. Lord Krishna (embodiment of wisdom) preached The Gita to Arjuna (embodiment of skill) to motivate him to perform his duty when he faced an ethical dilemma whether not to kill his relatives and friends in the battlefield of kurukshetra.

There are 700 verses (slokas) in eighteen chapters in Bhagavad Gita which can address spiritual, mental, intellectual, and health problems of mankind. Adi- Shankaracharya, Sri Ramanujacharya, Sri Madhvacharya, Lokamanya Tilak, Maharshi Mahesh Yogi, Srila Pradhu pada and many eminent scholars wrote comments on the Gita. Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Sri Rama Krishna, Swami Vivekananda, Emerson, Aldous Huxley, Carl Jung, Sri Aurobindo, Henry David Thorean, Jawaharlal Nehru and others have delivered inspiration from the Gita.

Uniqueness of the Bhagavad Gita–the Ultimate Philosophy

What is so unique about the Bhagavad Gita is that his elucidation of the 18 different yogas mentioned therein these are scientific objective and work for all who care to apply the

same in their lives. Lord Krishna does not pass a judgment on anyone, nor does he specify a moral conduct of 'right' and 'wrong'. He does not impose any rigid 'do's and don't's either. Krishna's message of Bhagavad Gita teaches man to free himself of his fetters, while being very much in samsara, realize the actual nature of his self and go beyond the human limitations of sorrow, ageing and death.

2. Literature Review:

Influence of Bhagavad Gita Worldwide:

The Bhagavad Gita has had and continues to have a great influence on different types of people from several cultures around the globe.

The father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, stated that the Gita was a call to humanity as a whole, to surrender mind, body and soul to purity.

Sri Aurobindo averred that the Bhagavad Gita always had a new message for people of any age, from any part of civilization.

Albert Einstein stated that he was so deeply moved by the Gita that once he started contemplating on how God went about creating universe, he found everything else take and of no consequence.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer said that the Gita is so profound that it deeply influences the whole spirit of mankind by its attitude of devotion to God.

Aldous Huxley stated that the Bhagavad-Gita is the most complete statement of perennial Philosophy.

3. Discussions:

The present scenario of human life

Today's life is extremely busy, with its hectic pace, relations getting stressed, too much violence, corruption, and so on so forth. The present generation of youth who are pursuing their studies does not seem to have the time for anything at all. In the little time they manage to spare themselves, they often tend to fall prey to various distractions that life presents before them. Working people are constantly caught up with trying to earn more money in order provide their family and children with more luxuries and material desirables. In this rat race, they lose themselves and their identities even as living beings, leave alone becoming higher entities!

The relevance of the Bhagavad Gita in today's scenario

In an age when spirituality is steadily on the beeline on the global scale and materialism rules the roost, most people in the scenario doubt the efficacy of teachings such as the Bhagavad Gita. The greatest doubt that arises in people's minds is whether it is truly relevant to life as it is today or whether it is merely meant exclusively for chanting. Doubts like these arise only because of one person-people today do not remember that Bhagavad Gita means the 'Song of God' and hence, it is found to rebelled his voice for eternity.

The Divine Mother, Bhagavad Gita, Veritably pulsates with life and vibrancy and is very much alive for all those who care to turn to her for solace and support. There are people who swear by the fact that they have a particular issue in personal lives and open the chronicle to read it, they invariably find that they have turned to a page which holds an answer to that particular question or issue. Such is the sheer power of the Bhagavad Gita.

The Bhagavad Gita for the present youth

The youth is the wealth of the nation. Shaping them properly and helping them to develop their personalities will let their hearts flower, making them better citizens of the world, who would go ahead and create a better tomorrow.

The present generation of youth is currently experiencing a lot of stress, worries and tensions. They tend to age faster and fall prey to various illness and ailments. The teachings mentioned in the Bhagavad Gita can be used to help them view their own lives from a different perspective enriching them spiritually, telling them lead a quality life. The beautiful thing about Gita is that it does not advocate the follower to sacrifice anything in this material world. It purifies the mind, completely distresses the individual and helps him realize the ultimate Godhead. Further, it helps develop values in the youth, molding them into better global citizens, ushering in the new Golden Era for India and the rest of the world.

Reading the Bhagavad Gita, understanding the tenets mentioned therein and leading a life shorn of mundane tensions and worries helps you remain young for life and add life to your years, without nearly adding years to your life.

Bhagavad Gita and Management

Management has become a part and parcel in everyday life, be it at home, office, factory, Government, or in any other organization where a group of human beings assemble for a common purpose, management principles come into play through various facets like management of time, resources, personnel, materials, machinery, finance and prepare and planning, priorities policies and practices.

It is nothing but art of getting things done through and with the people efficiently and effectively.

It involves planning, organizing, staffing and controlling human efforts to achieve desire goals.

Bhagavad Gita is viewed as a guide in developing managerial efficiency and effectiveness to achieve the desired tasks by imparting views like turn human beings weaknesses into strengths, share responsibilities, selecting right set of individuals in the team, knowing the challenges in the work environment, the need of right managers who inspire, invigorate and counsel in crisis, initiate to know ground realities, Accept different ideologies and empower women and soon so on so forth...

Gita strikes harmony in working–Equilibrium in thoughts and actions, goals and achievements, plans and performance, products and markets.

Management resolves situations of scarcities be they in physical, technical or human fields through maximum utilization with the minimum available processes to achieve the goal. The lack of management will cause disorder, confusion, wastage, delay, destruction and even depression. Managing men, money and material is the best possible way according to circumstances and environment is the most important and essential factor for a successful management.

Man is the first syllable in management which speaks volumes on the role and significance of man in a scheme of management practices. Bhagavad Gita is source of different management thoughts, which we wish to narrate the following pages.

4. Findings

Management thoughts from Bhagavad Gita

1. The setting of the Gita:

The Setting of Gita is a symbolic of the battlefield of life, but more importantly, it is symbolic of the battle field within all of us. Our life is constant turmoil between positive and negative impulses, between our likes and dislikes, between good and the bad.

Lesson: How human beings are balancing his/her way of life to achieve his desired goals.

2. In action to action:

Krishna's response to the despondency of Arjuna on the battlefield was that "This is not the behavior of a great warrior"

Individuals and organizations are struggling to move ahead with different obstacles.

Lesson: Intent towards action not on its fruits.

3. Anger Management:

Lord Krishna Said, desire for sense objects comes from attachment to them, and anger comes from unfulfilled desires"

Modern psychoanalysis revealed that anger is a manifestation of repressed and suppressed desires.

Lesson: The purpose of life, our responsibilities, our goals and most importantly, peaceful co existence with fellow human beings.

4. Work Culture: Bhagavad Gita speaks of two types of work cultures Daivi sampat and Asuri Sampat, Daivi work culture includes fearlessness, purity, calmness, absence of fault finding absence of greed, gentleness, modesty and obscene of energy and pride. Whereas in asuri work culture involves Egoism, Delusion, Personal desires, improper performance and work not oriented toward service.

Lesson: Create Daivi sampat work culture to become a world class enterprise to tap the potential avenues.

5. Utilization of available resources:

During the curtain raiser before the Mahabharata War, Duryodhana choose Sri Krishna's large army for his help while Arjuna selected Sri Krishna's Wisdom for his support.

Lesson: Resources are scarce and choose wisely and utilize scarce resources optimally.

6. Work commitment:

A popular verse of the Gita advises 'detachment' from the fruits or results of actions performed in the course of one's duty. Detach yourself from the end rewards and concentrate on the work itself.

Lesson: Being dedicated work has to mean 'working for the sake of work, generating excellence for its own sake'.

7. Surrender to the Supreme:

Lord Krishna asked Arjuna to surrender him to lord, you should not have doubts on the existence of the lord. Look for the bigger and harmonious picture, put yourself egos aside.

Lesson: Spirituality leads to social harmony and realize ultimate destiny of human beings as a result self assessment and self determination.

8. Steadiness of mind:

Krishna tells in the midst of the battlefield that one should practice steadiness of mind him by yoga. Life is like Mahabharata wherein have battle being fought daily in the mind.

Lesson: With steadiness of mind one can calm the emotions and increase his/her Viveka or Buddhi with vichikshana.

9. Intensions are your expressions:

Gita says “your intentions should be clear, practical and achievable and should differentiate you from others.

Lesson: Power of intention is the success mantra for attaining any desired task.

10. Power of Science and Wisdom:

Gita says “Science can be understood by our senses ie., mouth speaks and understands various issues through eyes, ears and other senses. Wisdom will create inner feeling (intuition), it will make power of your intentions very strong, which can be transformed into introspection, after series of inner understanding if your mind says yes it becomes intentions’.

Lesson: Intentions starts with inner feelings then transform into intuitions and travel as introspection and ably supported by wisdom becomes an action plan and your expressions and through science it becomes success formula.

6. Conclusion:

Gita provides ideal karma yoga, a basis for human action. Each person has the potential of infinity. The ideal of infinity indicates that every individual in the world has equal boundless, infinite potential. It is possible to harness this potential at each level of individual. It is a matter of manifestation of that potential. It is the responsibility of individual realizes it and strives for excellence in their respective profession to meet socially desired targets. It is also responsibility to realize the organizations to understand the need of potential employees in the ever changing competitive world. Organizations need to concentrate on harness their employees through training and development. Government need to initiate to allocate reasonable amount on human resource development by promoting quality education to harness the fellow citizens , so as to enhance competitive advantage and make it as a source of potential human capital in the country. As reiterated by President of India and his highness- ‘To regain our glory as a best destination for knowledge hub’ every individual, institutions and government need to work together to achieve a noble cause.

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