

## Impact of Spiritual Intelligence on Achievement Motivation among Indian Young Adults

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### ABSTRACT

Spirituality has always been an important aspect of an individual's life and yet spiritual intelligence is a lesser-known concept for most of us. The objective of this research is to investigate the impact of spiritual intelligence on achievement motivation among young Indian adults. Data for the study was collected online and a sample of 128 Indian young adults studying in different Indian institutions in equal sex ratio was collected using purposive sampling. A correlation study was carried out first to understand the correlation between the variables and a low correlation  $r = .137, p > 0.05$ , indicating that the results were not statistically significant. Consequently, the study concludes that spiritual intelligence does not impact achievement motivation among Indian young adults. This study's outcomes can help increase awareness and stimulate further research on spiritual intelligence.

**Keywords:** *Spiritual Intelligence, Achievement Motivation*

Motivation is the inner drive that propels us to pursue specific goals or behaviours. It is a complex internal process that is not directly observable, but its effects can be seen through a person's actions and persistence in pursuing their objectives. In other words, motives are the underlying reasons that influence our behaviour and are not visible to the outside observer. There are multiple types of motivations one of them is Achievement motivation which guides us towards our ambition and success, it helps us to stay focused and determined towards our life goals.

Various factors such as our interests, needs, instincts, and spirituality affect our motivation. While there have been studies examining the influence of religion and spirituality on motivation, it is equally important to investigate the impact of spiritual intelligence, which is defined as the ability to ask fundamental questions about the meaning of life and feel the interconnectedness of oneself and the world (Wolman, 2001), on achievement motivation.

### *Spiritual Intelligence*

In various belief systems and even beyond them, individuals possess spirituality within their minds and emotions. However, the term "spiritual intelligence" is comprised of two distinct

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terms, "spiritual" and "intelligence," implying that there is a distinction between spirituality and spiritual intelligence. Zohar (1997) is credited with creating the concept of "Spiritual Intelligence" and introducing the notion that "It is the intelligence that makes us whole, that gives us our integrity. According to Zohar (1997), the term "spiritual" is derived from the Latin word *spiritus*, which means "that gives life or vitality to a system." On the other hand, intelligence refers to the ability to acquire, understand, and apply knowledge and skills to solve problems and adapt to new situations. Zohar further posited that there is a connection between the constructs of "spiritual" and "intelligence." The interconnection between the spiritual and intellectual aspects constitutes the concept of "spiritual intelligence," which is crucial for an individual's overall well-being and life satisfaction. Essentially, spiritual intelligence can be viewed as the intelligence of the soul, as it enables individuals to ask profound questions and reframe their answers in a meaningful way (Zohar & Marshall, 2004).

Emmons (2000a, 2000b) argued that spiritual intelligence can be seen as a type of intelligence because it can predict an individual's functioning and adaptation, and it provides skills that enable people to achieve their goals and solve problems. Emmons (2000a) proposed five components that constitute spiritual intelligence: the ability to use spiritual resources to solve problems, the ability to attain heightened states of consciousness, the ability to invest everyday experiences with meaning, the capacity for transcendence beyond the physical and material world, and the capacity for virtuous behavior. Although the first four elements of the model were retained, Emmons (2000b) removed the capacity for virtuous behavior.

Nasel (2004) defined spiritual intelligence as the capacity to use one's spiritual resources to recognize, comprehend, and resolve spiritual, practical, and existential issues. On the other hand, Zohar and Marshall (2004) stated that spiritual intelligence is the intelligence used to explore our fundamental meanings, objectives, and greatest motivations. The authors presented a list of 12 attributes associated with Spiritual Intelligence, which include qualities such as self-awareness, spontaneity, a visionary outlook, a holistic perspective, compassion, appreciation for diversity, independence, humility, a propensity to ask fundamental questions, the ability to reframe, resilience in the face of adversity, and a sense of vocation.

### ***Achievement Motivation***

Achievement motivation is often defined as the degree to which one is motivated to engage in behaviors that lead to success based on the combination of factors like the need for success, the expectation of success, and the value of the rewards associated with success. People will use many strategies to fulfill their needs, and they are motivated to achieve for several internal and external reasons. Achievement motivation is another significant personality-related phenomenon that contributes to a high quality of life.

The concept of achievement motivation was initially developed by Murray (1938), and later expanded upon by researchers such as David McClelland and Atkinson. According to McClelland et al. (1953), achievement motivation is characterized by a desire to compete against a standard of excellence. Individuals who possess a high need for achievement are those who strive for excellence in a particular area purely for the sake of achieving success, rather than for any external reward or recognition. This need for achievement is often referred to as "n-achievement" (n-ach).

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The concept of "need for achievement" or n-Ach pertains to an individual's natural tendency or eagerness to independently and expeditiously accomplish difficult tasks, regardless of whether they involve tangible objects, people, or theoretical concepts. Successful achievement of these objectives not only enhances an individual's self-esteem and self-assurance, but also enables them to hone and cultivate their abilities.

The motivation to achieve is focused on the pursuit of success and realizing one's aspirations in life. Individuals with a high achievement motivation actively seek out challenging tasks that they believe they can accomplish with hard work and perseverance. Individuals who achieve at a high level typically exhibit persistence and a strong work ethic in order to attain the goals they have set for themselves.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The aim of this study is to find out the impact of spiritual intelligence on achievement motivation among Indian young adults, and to study the difference in level of spiritual intelligence among male and female participants.

#### ***Objectives***

- To study the impact of spiritual intelligence on achievement motivation among Indian young adults.
- To study the significant difference between spiritual intelligence of male and female participants.
- To study the significant difference between achievement motivation of male and female participants.

#### ***Hypotheses***

- H<sub>0</sub>1. There is no significant impact of spiritual intelligence on achievement motivation among Indian young adults.
- H<sub>0</sub>2. There is no significant difference between spiritual intelligence of male and female participants.
- H<sub>0</sub>3. There is no significant difference between achievement motivation of male and female participants.

#### ***Variables***

The following variables were measured in this study.

- Spiritual intelligence
- Achievement motivation

#### ***Sampling Technique***

The data in this study was collected through online using two questionnaires and a purposive sampling technique was used to collect data in equal sex ratio among Indian young adults. The sample includes 128 Indian young adults studying in various Indian educational institutes ranging from 18 to 25 years in equal sex ratio of 64 male and 64 female participants.

#### ***Research Design***

The study employed a correlational research design, which is a quantitative research methodology aimed at exploring the relationship between two or more variables, without

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any manipulation of the variables themselves, with the primary objective of identifying the presence and strength of the association between them.

### *Tools used for study*

- **The Spiritual Intelligence Self-Report Inventory (SISRI 24):** developed by D. King (2008) was used to assess level of spiritual intelligence of the participants, it is a 24 items self-reported inventory range: 0 – 96 and has four subscales: Critical Existential Thinking (CET), Personal Meaning Production (PMP), Transcendental Awareness (TA), and Conscious State Expansion (CSE) in which higher scores represent higher levels of spiritual intelligence and/or each capacity.
- **Achievement Motivation Scale (AMS):** constructed and standardized by Beena Shah (1986) was used to assess achievement motivation of the participants, The AMS is a three-point scale contains 40 items distributed over four dimensions: (a) Need for Academic Success (b) Need for Vocational Achievement (c) Need for Social Achievement and (d) Need for Skill Achievement. Each statement is followed by three alternative responses. The alternatives are arranged to one's inclination towards achievements in the areas of academic, vocation, social context and skills. Weightages 1, 2 and 3 were awarded for alternatives (a), (b) & (c) respectively on each statement thus the scale values lie between 40 and 120. The researcher rephrased some items in the survey to better suit the characteristics of the participants.

### *Inclusion criteria*

- Young Adults of age 18-25 were included in the study.
- Young adults were from different Indian educational institutes.

### *Exclusion criteria*

- Sample from any other country than India was excluded from the study.
- Individuals above the age of 25 were excluded from the study.
- Individuals below age 18 years were excluded from the study.

### *Procedure*

The participants in this study were selected randomly online through various social media platforms. Prior to the study, informed consent was obtained from all participants to ensure their willingness to participate and provide data and instructed to complete the questionnaires. The instructions provided in both questionnaires were sufficient for the participants to comprehend how to approach the questions presented. On an average it took 10 minutes for the participants to fill both the questionnaires. After completing the data collection, the results were analysed using SPSS 25.

### *Statistical Technique used*

In this study, both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyse the data. Descriptive statistics, such as mean, standard deviation, were employed to summarize the characteristics of the sample and the variables of interest. Inferential statistics, on the other hand, were utilized to test the hypotheses and make inferences about the population.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study's objective was to examine how spiritual intelligence affects achievement motivation in young adults from India. The data was gathered through two questionnaires

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administered via Google Forms, from 128 Indian young adults between 18 and 25 years old, who were enrolled in various educational institutions in India. The collected data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS 25.

**Table 1 Descriptive Statistics and Correlations for spiritual intelligence and achievement motivation**

Variables	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>SI</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>p</i>
SI	128	54.79	15.50	1.00	.13	.12
AM	128	89.49	9.13	.13	1.00	.12

Note: *SI*= Spiritual Intelligence, *AM*= Achievement Motivation

### **H<sub>0</sub>1. There is no significant impact of spiritual intelligence on achievement motivation among Indian young adults.**

Table 1 presents the correlation between spiritual intelligence and achievement motivation among young adults in India. The correlation was analyzed using Pearson correlation test and the results indicate a positive correlation with a coefficient of  $r = .137$ ,  $p > 0.05$ , which suggests that the results are not statistically significant. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no significant correlation between the variables, and the null hypothesis H<sub>0</sub>1 is accepted. Hence, there is no significant impact of spiritual intelligence on achievement motivation among Indian young adults.

Hidayah and Sulaksono (2022) conducted a study that showed that spiritual intelligence does not have any impact on the academic achievement of students. Similarly, Smartt's (2014) analysis of the study indicated that there is no evident relationship between spiritual intelligence and student achievement.

**Table 2 Independent t test of SI among Young Adults based on gender**

<i>SI</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Male	64	54.94	15.62	1.95	.10	126	.91
Female	64	54.64	15.45	1.93			

Note: *SI*= Spiritual Intelligence

### **H<sub>0</sub>2. There is no significant difference between spiritual intelligence of male and female participants.**

Table 2 presents the independent t test results of spiritual intelligence among Indian young adults based on gender. The results indicates that there is no significant difference in the level of spiritual intelligence between male ( $M = 54.94$ ,  $SD = 15.62$ ) and female ( $M = 54.64$ ,  $SD = 15.45$ ) participants,  $t(126) = .10$ ,  $p > 0.05$ , indicating there is no difference in the level of spiritual intelligence between male and female participants. Therefore, H<sub>0</sub>2 is accepted.

The result is supported by the study of Pant & Srivastava (2019) in which there was no significant difference between spiritual intelligence of male and female students.

**Table 3 Independent t test of AM among Young Adults based on gender**

<i>AM</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Male	64	87.36	9.03	1.13	-2.70	126	.01
Female	64	91.63	8.80	1.10			

Note: *AM*= Achievement Motivation

**H<sub>0</sub>3. There is no significant difference between achievement motivation of male and female participants.**

Table 3 presents the independent t test results of achievement motivation among Indian young adults based on gender. The results indicates that there is significant difference in the level of achievement motivation between male (M= 87.36, SD= 9.03) and female (M= 91.63, SD= 8.80) participants,  $t(126) = -2.70$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , indicating female participants have higher level of achievement motivation than male participants. Therefore, H<sub>0</sub>3 is rejected.

Pany (2014) conducted research on Achievement Motivation of College Students in relation to their gender and the results showed significant difference in achievement motivation of boys and girls.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study aimed to investigate the impact of spiritual intelligence on the achievement motivation of young Indian adults. The results indicate that there is no significant correlation between spiritual intelligence and achievement motivation, leading to the conclusion that spiritual intelligence does not have an impact on achievement motivation among this population.

### ***Major findings of the study***

1. There is no significant correlation between spiritual intelligence and achievement motivation among Indian young adults.
2. There is no significant difference between spiritual intelligence of male and female participants.
3. There is significant difference between achievement motivation of male and female participants.

### ***Implications***

1. The research findings suggest that spiritual intelligence does not appear to significantly contribute to the achievement motivation of Indian youth. Consequently, the assessment of spiritual intelligence may not be necessary to accurately predict the level of motivation that Indian youth possess with regard to achieving their goals.
2. The current body of research on spiritual intelligence among Indian populations is limited, therefore the results of this study can provide valuable insights for future investigations in this area.
3. Given that there are existing studies that forecast the influence of spiritual intelligence on achievement across diverse populations, it is crucial to examine this variable to gain a deeper understanding of its impact on related achievement factors among various populations. This can help to address disparities in findings and bridge gaps in knowledge.
4. The present study raises awareness regarding the importance of spiritual intelligence as a distinct form of intelligence and highlights that there is no significant gender-based difference in the level of spiritual intelligence among the population studied.

### ***Limitations***

1. The findings of studies examining the impact of spiritual intelligence on other variables have been inconsistent, indicating the need for a cross-religious

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investigation to provide a deeper understanding of how this variable relates to other factors.

2. The study's sample was limited to individuals between the ages of 18 to 25 years. Further investigation could be conducted on different age groups to explore potential age-based differences within the sample.
3. The study required participants to complete an online questionnaire, which may have impacted their level of concentration and, in turn, resulted in potentially inaccurate responses.

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### Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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## Appendix

**Figure 1 Scatterplot Depicting Correlation between Spiritual Intelligence and Achievement Motivation**

