BOOK REVIEW

Eminent Indian Psychologists- 100 years of Psychology in India Edited by – Braj Bhushan, Sage Publication 2017

The year 2016 saw the celebration of 100 years in Indian Psychology, the first introduction in 1916 in University of Calcutta. Psychology emerged from the overwhelming shadow of philosophy because of determination of number of scientist.

The book is divided into three broad divisions. Foreword of the book is written by Emeritus Director of J. P Das Centre on Developmental Disability and Learning from University of Alberta, Canada.

The overview section takes the reader through the journey of Indian psychology since its establishment, the opening of Indian Psychoanalytical Institute, the academic exchange program, the post-independence massive extension and finally the present scenario.

Section 2 comprises of criteria of academic leadership and leadership in professional environment including scientific contribution. It ranges from authors born between 1864-1939, approximately in an ascending order.

Seal, B (1864-1938) initiated the study of psychology as an independent study in India and established the significance of Indian scientific knowledge via ancient Hindu philosophical concepts. Bose, G (1886-1953) was interested in magic and hypnotism and extensively contributed from psychology to psychoanalysis wherein he highlighted the origin and treatment of mental disorders and developed new insights into the unconscious mind. Sengupta, N (1889-1944) started the first psychology journal in India, the Indian Journal of Psychology and also ventured into making psychological instruments. Mitra, S (1895-1962) was a pioneer in the field of psychology and laid emphasis on broadening the scope of history of psychology and criminal psychology in order to attract more public attention and a respectable status for this area. Gopalaswamy, M.V (1896-1957) applied psychology for the reformation of the education and examination systems for the holistic benefit of the society and established a first-rate psychology laboratory for research and application purposes. B.L. Atreya, B.L (1897-1967) contributed to the research on yoga-vashistha and comparison of Indian and Western psychology.

Prasad, K (1901-1963) was instrumental in organizing activities for higher learning, taking his own department to enormous heights and arranged visits of foreign scholars and professors to enrich teachings at the department. Bose, S.K. (1901-1995) was immensely interested in industrial psychology and became the pioneer of tension study in India in the field of industrial psychology. Kuppuswamy, B (1907-1981) did comparative studies between ancient Indian thought and modern theories of psychology and developed of the socio-economic scale, which was used by socio-economic research scientists cross India. Trivikram Kulkarni, R (1912-1983) was a licensed medical practitioner but contributed to understanding
Yoga through empirical analysis. Kothurkar, V.K (1912-2008) was responsible for building the experimental psychology laboratory and subsequently contributed extensively in comparative psychology. Bhatia, M.C (1914-2004) constructed the Bhatia Battery of Performance Tests of Intelligence under the Indian conditions. Fr. Joachim M. Fuster (1914-2011)’s area of expertise was personal counselling, which he further took to common people through courses on counselling. Mohsin, S.S (1914-1999) focussed not only on psychology but on its application in terms of training, measurement of intelligence and vocational guidance as well. Sinha, A.K.P (1918-2009) extensively promoted experimental thinking in social psychology.

Asthana, H.K (1922) advocated the science of psychology through the area of philosophy, psychology and experimental psychology. Rath, R (1926-2014) work in the area of caste, class, gender etc are benchmarks for social psychological research in India. Shanmugam, T.E (1921-1997) contributed significantly in the field of criminology. Ansari, A (1922-1978) devoted most of his work towards experimental-personality psychology. Chatterjee, B (1922-1983) worked in psychology and sociology on topics like socio-metric data, conflict resolution etc. Sinha, D (1922-1998) has contributed enormously in the field of cross-cultural psychology ranging from basic to their application. Murthy, H.N (1924-2011) guided the future of clinical psychology and behavioural therapy in India and expanded new areas of clinical service and practice. Kale, S.V (1924-2012) examined the psychological basis of social, civic and political behaviour. Tripathi, L.B (1925-2012) was focussed on scientific enquiry of psychology. Hundal, P.S (1925-1983) was interested in intelligence, personality and motivation and advocated multivariate techniques in research. Pareek, U (1925-2010) was champion and expert on training and organizational behaviour and led the HRD movement in India. George, E.I (1925-1989) worked on the psychological correlated of academic achievements. Ghorpade, M.G (1926) contributed to the area of industrial psychology, organizational psychology and modern psychotherapy. Kulkarni, S.S (1926) heavily contributed to the education system of India, through NCERT and established scientific methodology of psychological testing. Singh, S.D (1930-1979) focused on cognitive aspects of psychology and selected research problems that had consequences reflected in all aspects of the discipline. Das, J.P (1931) focussed was on empirical research on psychological sciences and contributed PASS theory. Rao, K.R (1932) did exemplary work on psychology propelled him to get the Padma Shri, the first receiver in the field of psychology. His work mainly comprises of understanding the psi phenomenon in Indian philosophical perspective. Beg, M.A (1932-2013)’s work focused on the heuristic power of Vedantic and Sufi concepts. Anandalakshmy, S (1932) focused on the cause of societal development, girl child development, cognitive development in early childhood and socialization amongst many others. Mukherjee, B.N (1933-1997) was interested on the field of theory, method and applications of multi-variate analysis in psychology which ranged from statistical psychology to social and industrial psychology. Joshi, M.C (1933-2010) has done commendable work on individual differences and intelligence testing in the field of psychology. Bhagwatwar, P.A (1934) wanted to figure out the connection between the world of work and psychology and pointed that society and psychology are mutually exclusive and wanted to establish that the application of psychology on Indian society will be beneficial to
all community. Kanekar, S (1934) believed strongly on positivistic approach and contributed immensely to empirical enquiry and quantitative analysis of social phenomena.

Prabhu, G.G (1935)’s contribution towards formation of clinical psychology, development of training programme especially for mentally handicapped are only few to be named. Sinha, J.B.P (1935) was an expert in multi method research approach and developed methodology to address Indian context of research more pertinently. Faroqi, M.A (1935-2017) held multiple roles as institution builder, teacher trainer and consultant he was remembered as an eminent contributor of psychology. Palsane, M.N (1935) was the pioneer in establishing psychometric orientation in teaching and research in Pune University and worked towards psychometric testing, stress and behavioural pattern with respect to Indian society. Kanungo helped in progress of work motivation and alienation, entrepreneurship and innovation and organizational leadership immensely. Paranjpe, A.C (1936) was interested in the area of theories of personality, history and systems of personality and techniques with respect to Indian tradition. Deshpande, G.C (1936) was a practicing psychologist at the grassroot level he succeeded in establishing link between urban and rural psychologist in Maharashtra. Phadke, K.M (1936) was moving from being amateur to professional psychologist, he has extensively worked in REBT (Rational Emotive Behaviour Therapy) and is the only Indian psychologist to become a Fellow and supervisor of Albert Ellis Institute for REBT, New York. Nandy, A (1937) emphasised on bridging the gap between psychology and sociology and stresses that study of psychology should encompass diverse pursuit and exploratory methods. Kakar, S (1938) was a psychoanalyst and thinker, his application in psychotherapy emphasises on transformative knowledge with empathy and application of Eriksonian clinical method. Kureshi, A (1939-1996) gave importance to projective techniques and most of his work comprised of reinterpreting and refining the field of personality assessment. Pestonjee, D.M (1939) is a highly respected Indian psychologist and has extensively worked in organisation structure, stress management to name a few. Sharma, S (1939) work encompasses in stress, emotions, health, well-being within educational, clinical, organisational and cross-cultural perspectives. Kool, V.K (1943) focused on motor memory of blind people and psychology of non-violence and cross-cultural perspective in this. Krishnan, B research area focused on personality and counselling in Indian Psychology and contributed in framing the psychology curriculum in Indian Universities. Fr James Filella focussed that psychology was on directive vs non-directive thinking, individualisation and type of job contract and made huge contribution in these areas in psychology. Mukherjee, N. focused on application of psychology in clinical, educational and industrial spheres and contributed towards development the Department of Applied Psychology for University of Bombay. Adinarayan, S.P was the first Indian to take up psychological investigation on colour prejudice. Jalota, S.S (1904-1982) contributed towards experimental works towards psychological methods, learning and motivation is till date being honoured by all. Lal, S was interested in selection process of armed forces which comprises of different psychological tools was shaped by him amongst few other eminent people. Under his vision and leadership, the Defence Institute of Psychological Research was established. Adiseshiah, W.T.V carried the legacy of Sohan Lal, he continued with development of DIPR as Director. His researches mainly focused in intelligence testing.
The last section is an retrospective of the psychology field depicted by 18 important question and answers by eminent psychologists.

Overall, the book takes the reader through a journey with interesting insights which were never brought under one umbrella.

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