

“SUPERSTITIONS & IRRATIONAL BELIEFS ARISE DUE TO IGNORANCE.”

FRAIL AND FLAWED REASONING

Superstition and ignorance are true siblings. *Per contra*, superstition and knowledge are the worst enemies. Knowledge is



based on reason and logic leads to the truth. Knowledge is light whereas superstition is darkness or the absence of light. When one lives in the realm of ignorance, faculty of reasoning is the first casualty.

Lack of knowledge can even make one assume a rope to be a snake or vice versa. Superstitions have no basis—they are only outcomes of frail thinking, which is devoid of rationality. Superstitions arise when one blindly believes in dogmas without testing a particular fact or event on the touchstone of reason. Thus with a superstitious view, idols of gods can be stated to be drinking milk, whereas rationally the event can be explained by the principle of surface tension.

Gaurav Sharma

Bal Bharati Public School, New Delhi

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH MEANS TO ALWAYS QUESTION

“Knowledge is power” – somebody has rightly said. A streak of light comes and darkness vanishes. Education is just one of the means to overcome



superstitious and irrational beliefs. Actually we have to train our mind continuously to think logically and scientifically.

We cannot follow our elders blindly. Once a child asked his mother why do we cut the head and tail of the fish before cooking? His mother said because my mother used to do like that. He asked the same to his grandmother. She replied because her mother used to do it that way. Then he asked his great grandmother. She told him that at that time we did not have large utensils, so we used to cut the head and tail.

See the irony of the situation? We all study rational numbers but we need to think rationally!

Kartik Sharma

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SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS SHOULD BE ERADICATED

It is true that irrational beliefs and superstitions arise due to ignorance and that the only way to eradicate these is through awareness and emphasis on rational thinking. Such disbeliefs hinder the development of mankind and pave a way for thugs, who easily lure and befool people in the name of such irrational beliefs.

Since the media, especially the electronic



media, play an important role in this context it must throw light upon the scientific cause or logical reason behind any observed phenomenon and the actual purpose and benefits of any new scientific experiment conducted.

Besides this, it is our responsibility, not to air such disbeliefs and not to indulge in irrational thinking, but provoke logical thinking instead.

Tulika Sawhney

Dehradun

EVEN THE EDUCATED BELIEVE IN SUPERSTITIONS

I do not agree with the statement because superstitions and irrational beliefs have been seen not



only in villages but in towns and cities and metropolitan cities as well. Ignorance has no role to play here as even educated people often fall into the trap of *babas*. Even if we do not believe in superstitions, TV advertisements being broadcast, advertising different products like bangles and necklaces that promise to give us wealth and health, entice us to go for it. When no hope is left both the uneducated and

the educated opt for these types of irrational beliefs. It has been observed that *babas* are surrounded by elite and affluent people and the products sold by these advertisements are too expensive for the poor.

Ashutosh Ganguly

Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Nagpur

SUPERSTITIONS INHIBIT CREATIVITY

Man is a creative animal and ignorance blocks human creativity and intelligence. Superstitions and irrational beliefs are ill-conceived thoughts that can undermine our thinking power. And ignorance inhibits us from thinking out of the box. But the reality is far from what is inside the box. The world we live in today demands more rationalism if we are to discover the real in us. Thus there is no place for ignorance.

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SUPERSTITIONS ARE HARMFUL

The statement is not true at all. It is widely seen that highly educated persons believe in various wrong beliefs and superstitions. Thousands of M.Sc. and PhD degree-holders follow *gurujs* and *babajis*. They hold and bear *madulis* and *tabijs* given by those *gurus* and *babajis* to curb the hazards in life. These educated persons suffer from fear of the hard-reality of life. Social and environmental insecurities bring these types of fears. Actually they are mentally weak and vulnerable to those *gurus* and *babajis*.

The flow of these traditional superstitions must be curbed by wisdom, not by formal nominal education. So-called educated persons gather some knowledge only but do not necessarily become wise.

Tapomoy Ghosh
Katwa College, Burdwan

SUPERSTITION IS THE RELIGION OF FEEBLE MINDS

It is quite a common sight in our country that renowned doctors offer prayers before entering the Operation Theatre or engineers perform *pujas* before starting any new undertaking. Most of our hoteliers are triskaidekaphobic without rhyme or reason. Our so-called educated people brazenly show-off their astrological affinity. Our bright students are compelled to get *doi-phontas* on their foreheads to excel in the examinations!

On the other hand, there are still a few mavericks who are academically illiterate but scientifically literate. In fact, proper education and analytical power of inner self-realisation can bring the desired enlightenment. Edmund Burke rightly said: "Superstition is the religion of feeble minds."

Partha Sarkar
RR&R Department, Writers' Buildings, Kolkata

EDUCATION NOT JUST CONFINED TO BOOKS

Superstitions are like light and shadow, and are intermingled with each other. Due to lack of logical thinking and analytical capability, superstitions and irrational beliefs are



increasing day by day. Not only illiterates but also literates obey the illogical primitive customs in a traditional manner without analyzing the real fact. About 90% of these superstitions are developed in the field of worship. Different types of jugglers, so-called *babas* perform their dramas and dupe people. Our education is just confined to books, not utilized in real life facts. Education and consciousness are the best and only remedy.

Pinaki Mukherjee
Mollarpur, West Bengal

SUPERSTITIONS BARRIER TO DEVELOPMENT

Superstitions are man-made customs. From earlier times till today, people and even some so-called literate people believe in superstitions. Superstitions arise due to ignorance and not having interest to know the truth. Superstitions and irrational beliefs are serious barrier for the development of any nation. Therefore, science holds the only key that helps to bring out the truth and can make people free from those superstitions and irrational beliefs that are a serious threat to the nation.

Md Mostafa
Suri, West Bengal

DESPITE EDUCATION Irrational beliefs are the basis of superstition. Belief is an intrinsic characteristic of a human being. In our environment all the phenomena are not exposed to us. For example



we cannot find that the earth moves round the sun. Mathematics and several other facts prove it clearly. We just believe it. This belief is an important factor for a person for development of his or her mental as well as physical structure. But that belief should be based on some scientific ideas. We should bow before the super power or energy that holds the electron and proton together in an atom but we must not show our reverence for drinking of milk by the God Ganesha.

Such irrational thoughts primarily come from ignorance. But merely having degree of education does not impart proper knowledge. Knowledge is the assimilation of education, which enriches the soul, which creates rational attitude, which eradicates irrational beliefs from a person. A less formal educated person may have such knowledge. Great persons like Ramkrishna Paramhansa Dev, Rabindranath Tagore are the best examples. On the other hand several superstitions exist in the mind of the highly educated persons of developed countries of Europe and America besides a developing country like ours.

Anwita Chattopadhyay
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SUPERSTITIONS ARISE FROM FEAR

Superstitions and irrational beliefs are as old as the human civilization. They



are born out of many circumstances and are very difficult to remove from peoples' minds. But it is wrong to say that superstitions arise only due to ignorance. Though ignorance is one of the causes the most important cause for the rise of superstitions and irrational beliefs is the fear of man. Superstitions arise due to the fear of the unseen. Many people are always worried about what would happen to them in the future. They are afraid to face dangerous situations in their lives. Therefore they resort to superstitions to protect themselves. Superstitions are not something in which only uneducated or illiterate people believe, rather many educated men also believe in superstitions.

Saumoneel Mandal
Asansol, West Bengal

EDUCATION WILL ERADICATE SUPERSTITIONS

Of course, superstitions and irrational beliefs originated from ignorance in most of the cases. In our nation, many ignorant people believe in age-old superstitions when most of people were ignorant of science and other types of education. Their activities directly or indirectly stop our progress. So, ignorance is like nutrition given to trees called 'irrational beliefs' or 'superstitions'. Only education can remove superstitions and irrational beliefs from minds of ignorant people.

Kedar Jivrakh
Aurangabad, Maharashtra

UNSUBSTANTIATED CONVICTIONS

Superstitions and related beliefs have existed in human society since time immemorial. They persist, irrespective of region, religion and reign. They may have been the set syntax in some age-old times, but now they seem baseless. The origin of these dogmas is traced to the lack of broad outlook. People are misled due to the occurrence of undesirable incidents when they try linking them to certain uncorroborated beliefs. Like, a black cat crossing ones path, a broken mirror or Friday the 13th merely make the difference! Particularly in a country like ours, where people stick to their ancient roots, such irrational doctrines are in high concentration.

These ignorant judgments add up to nothing good. But it is also an accepted fact that, what now is termed as superstition may have been the latest update of some age. In my opinion, only more knowledge can erase them from the mind, and the society in general.

Soumyaa Mishra, Odisha

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

Ignorance in scientific thoughts is indeed the culprit that eventually leads to superstitious beliefs. Today's world is entirely led by science and technology, which has nothing to do with these backward thoughts.

The reason behind why we think in this direction is, lack of knowledge regarding the advancements of technology, in almost every field. Consequently we start relying on such beliefs that

have no foundation. For instance, we choose certain mantras to get rid of a disease over medicines, or tantriks over psychiatrists. **Shriparna Ganguly**
College of Engineering, Nagpur



SUPERSTITION BORN OUT OF LACK OF REASON

Superstitions arise when people accept something without knowing the actual reason behind it. For example it is considered very unlucky if a cat crosses your path. But there is no valid reason for this belief. People believe that the mother is responsible for determining whether the child is a girl or a boy. But science tells us that only the father is responsible for the gender of the baby. This happens due to lack of knowledge and ignorance.

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“NOTHING IN THE ENTIRE WORLD IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN SINCERE IGNORANCE AND CONSCIENTIOUS STUPIDITY”

People believe that their ancestors led the best life. So, to be the best, they ought to follow the footsteps of their ancestors. Trying to live an unanalyzed life to please their ancestors or unseen gods, all the superstitions are accepted by them without question. We also have encountered cases where people sacrifice their own children to so-called superstitions

for the sake of health or wealth or many times for the goodwill of their community. I would blame ignorance for all the superstitions and irrational beliefs that are aroused in the minds of the people. They are not willing to verify the facts neither are they ready to accept the reality. Educating people about fact and fiction would be the only solution to erase all such evil practices from the lives of the believers.

Vidya C, DSCE, Bangalore

LACK OF AWARENESS

Superstitions and irrational beliefs are doubtless a byproduct of ignorance and baseless imagination. But there are some fanatic *dondo-babas* who spread these superstitious beliefs among the people by describing a natural event into their theology. For example, they ascribe eclipses as a mischief of planets *Rahu* and *Ketu*. Due to lack of awareness of the scientific causes and despite strong evidence to the contrary, people tend to believe these irrational beliefs. These are but a figment of our imagination and arise due to fear, insecurity, and uncertainties.

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SCIENCE IS EVIDENCE BASED

In a world where science is rapidly taking over

almost all spheres of life, it is rather disheartening to see that there has been little progress in eradicating superstitious beliefs. Superstitions have almost got a permanent hold on the minds of most people and some superstitions are in fact, irrational and illogical. Where science approves of a fact only when there is evidence, superstition holds on to the fact or belief even in the absence of evidence. In fact many superstitious beliefs do have scientific explanations. For example, the famous case of “holy” water trickling down the feet of Jesus in one of the churches of Mumbai was nothing but dirty drainage water from a nearby washroom that reached the statue's feet through capillary action, as explained by Sanal Edamaraku. Many other such irrational beliefs can be explained by science.

The best way of eradicating these superstitions is by enlightening the ignorant mind. For this, sound education is needed and the mind has to be trained in such a manner that it does not accept anything until there is a satisfying explanation for it. An ignorant mind can easily be frightened or forced into believing anything, while a truly educated mind has the power to rise above the superstitious beliefs and question the reason behind the happenings.

Tamoha Sengupta
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Now write in your thoughts on this topic:
“Children’s behaviour can be negatively influenced by computer games.”

Be short, crisp and logical. Send in your photo, if you like.