

SECTION-A

4. Patience and time grow the seed that blossoms into wisdom.

It is our patience when
we have nothing,
and our attitude when
we have everything....

~ Swami Vivekananda

Centuries ago, a young man left behind a grand palace in his quest for the true "wisdom". After wandering for years, he realised that "wisdom" lies in attainment of not only "intellectual knowledge" but the "moral knowledge".

This man was none other than Siddhartha, who turned out to be the "Buddha" providing the humanity with idea of "true wisdom" for others' well being.

So let us now discuss what does the "wisdom" stands for, why patience and time is

required to grow the seed that
blossoms into wisdom, can we
attain the wisdom even without
the patience and time and the need
to have "wisdom" in contemporary
times.

As we discussed earlier
that "wisdom" is not only
intellectual but also has a moral
dimension because "knowledge
without action is meaningless."

wisdom is thus
"action oriented", for instance
Sindutai Sapkal never went to
school but she attained the
"moral wisdom" which helped her
to become the mother of all the
children who do not have anyone
to call their own in this world.

She devoted her whole
life for the welfare of the
orphaned children which reflects

that the "patience and time" made her learn from her own sufferings in life, thus becoming a ray of hope for the millions.

The idea of wisdom is complex and subjective because it does not only mean to have knowledge about any phenomenon but also going beyond the phenomenon to understand the phenomenon itself, like the "Shankaravada philosophy" of Jainism provides the idea of "pluralism and multiplicity" of phenomenon.

wisdom also means the ability to understand and acknowledge the plurality and differences because "difference should not result in discrimination".

It was the wisdom which made Martin Luther King Jr.

and Rosa Parks to demand racial
equality and dignity of every
individual. Even today it provides
inspiration for the movements
demanding equality like the "Black
Life Matters" movement, Iranian
movement and the movements
demanding LGBTQ+ rights.

wisdom thus aims
at accommodation of diversity, it
cherishes the differences and even
embraces the reality, and in
order to have true understanding
of reality, patience and time
assumes significance.

Patience and time : to grow the seed

It is said that the "man
with patience can achieve
something which the man with
force can never achieve".

For instance the

Indian national movement was transformed into the "mass movement" with the advent of Gandhiji.

Gandhian approach of "struggle - truce - struggle" was based on the idea that patience and time is needed to raise the nationalistic consciousness, even he suddenly called off the Non cooperation (1922) as he realised that the "time was not ripe" for the seed to blossom.

Patience : wait and watch

our patience helps us to understand the complexities of any situation. It even prevents us to take any hasty and ill-planned decision.

Patience and continuous persistence provides us with vivid insights into any phenomenon to understand the phenomenon

in its core sense. It helps us to weigh the pros and cons of our decisions and actions like the present debate about the generative AI (Chat GPT, Bing, Bard), which demands patience to understand its multidimensional impacts.

Patience also helps to "strengthen our personality" and character and respond at the "right time" like Nelson Mandela with patience and perseverence realised that:

"After climbing one mountain one realises that there are many more such mountains to climb...."

The search for "wisdom" is thus a continuous perpetual exercise because "wisdom" itself is very dynamic and subjective. What is "wisdom"

today may not be "wisdom"
tomorrow. For instance, it was
earlier believed that the "Earth
is flat", "the Sun moves / revolves
around the Earth".

But this wisdom
turned out to be "myth", when
Galileo proved that the "Earth is
spherical" and Copernicus brought
out the idea that the "Sun is
stationary and the Earth is
moving".

thus, with the passage
of time the "wisdom" gets
refined and redefined. To gain
wisdom time is required
because we have to wait for
"right time" and "right place".
to grow the seed in order to
blossom it into wisdom.

It is widely
believed that "we may pour
hundreds of pots of water" but
the flower blossoms only when

the season for the blossom
arrives (kabirdas). Even if we
provide everything to the plant,
then also we will have to
wait for the "right time".

Additionally, we have
to sow the seed at the "right
place" also. We cannot expect
the seed to blossom on the
"barren land" which reflects "an
empty mind without innovative
ideas and curiosity".

Thus we have to
fetch water in the form of "ideas,
innovations, arguments" on the
fertile ploughed land i.e. our mind
in order to grow the seed
(initial idea) into wisdom (the
larger idea for "collective welfare").

However, one thing
needs to be noted here that

patience does not means that we
"keep on waiting" and miss the
"golden opportunity" (time).

Sometimes the
situations which are unanticipated
and unexpected, demand instant
and urgent response.

For instance the
"covid-19 pandemic" engulfed the
whole world at a very short
notice. If during the pandemic
we had followed patience and
time then it could have been
"very late".

Thus, across the
world, even in our country
the instant response was in the
form of the "lockdowns" with
masks, sanitizers becoming the
"new common sense" and "wisdom".

Even our response

to the contemporary challenges like "Sixth mass anthropocene extinction" (IPCC) demand urgent action, which made us to come ahead with the "Panchamrit targets" at COP 26 Glasgow.

Thus, at few instances the seed has to blossom into wisdom, without the patience and time, especially when we do not have the enough "time" to wait for the seed to blossom.

Even "wisdom" demands us to be "wise enough to understand" the far reaching consequences of any action like India, clearly stated that "now it is not the era of war", in context of the Ukrainian crisis, thus reflecting the "wisdom" which we have

gained through our experiences.
at the time when the world
is facing "polycrisis" (World Bank)
there is the need for the
measured response.

Thus to overcome
the contemporary challenges we
need to have the "patience"
to understand and acknowledge
the crisis like the climate
change, food inflation throughout
the world, terrorism, violation
of human rights, gender
violence, nuclear proliferation
to name a few.

These challenges
demand collective actions from
the "global community" with
patience and time in order
to make the seeds (the
collective efforts) blossom into
the wisdom i.e. the idea

of "Vasudhaina Kutumbakam",
because "wisdom" also means
the acknowledgment of the
reality and the reality today
is the "borderless world"
with "borderless problems that
do not require passports" (Kofi
Annan, former UN Secretary General).

Thus, there is the
need for patience to realize
the "potential" of the "seed"
and waiting for the "time" to
blossom it into wisdom.

It can take few
years, like we discussed in
the beginning that Buddha
took few years to come up
with the "moral wisdom", even
can take decades because:

"wisdom does not mean
knowing everything, but
accepting that we know
nothing" ~ Socrates.

8. The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.

"We should be the
change, we wish
to see in this world..."
~ Gandhiji

It was believed initially by the moderate leaders (C.S.N. Banerjee, Dadabhai Naoroji, Pherozshah Mehta, M.G. Ranade...) that the British rule is the "blessing in disguise" to civilize the masses.

However this predeposition proved wrong with the exploitative colonial policies coming to the surface (Rowlatt Act, Jallianwallah massacre) which changed the course of the moderate politics of prayer, petition, memorials, letters into the radical revolutionary movements.

Even the moderates

"changed their minds" like "Drain
of wealth" theory of Sadabhai
Naoroji and S.N. Banerjee
accepting that "the memorials
are not addressed to the
British but to the masses to
raise national consciousness".

Eventually the
"revolutionary movements" gave birth
to the phase of "mass movements"
which were not led by intellectuals
alone but by the masses, which
yielded independence to the
nation with "Trust with Destiny"
on 14-15 August 1947.

So let us now
discuss the need for change,
what is meant by the change,
is it is "intelligence" that is the
"ability to change" or change
is the "process that is
inevitable" and how we should
respond to these changes.

As we discussed in the beginning that the nationalist leaders changed the approaches to gain independence which reflects their "intelligence", learnings from the mistakes providing them the ability to change.

Understanding the "change": The Law of the nature

It is believed that the "only thing constant" in this world is the "change". Change reflects qualitative, quantitative dynamics which impact the human living.

For instance the present world in which we all live has undergone historical process of evolution, changing our socio-cultural behaviours, customs and traditions.

Often modernity is recognised as the force which

has given momentum to the
change like our ideas on
"gender hierarchies, inequalities"
have been influenced by the
forces of modernity.

change is often
described as a "natural process"
for instance the flora and
fauna which we witness around
us has evolved. The Earth
looked very different like a
"giant gaseous ball" in past
but today it appears as the
"Blue-green planet".

It is thus our
intelligence which provides us
the ability to understand
these changes and also the
ability to change ourselves.

For instance the
ideas of liberty, equality, fraternity
(French Revolution 1789) paved

the way for modern constitutional
governments with "rule of law"
and "universal adult franchise".

It is our intelligence
that made us to look for
alternatives to monarchy and
dictatorship in the form of
democracy representing the "will
of the people".

Also it is said
that the "change begins from
inside" (Rabindranath Tagore)

because "when the egg breaks
from outside the life ends but
when the egg breaks from
inside the life begins".

we brought the
change from within in 1991
with the New Economic Policy
adopting the LPG Reforms giving
up the "inward looking" trade
policy. Now it has been this

change which has made the
5th largest economy globally
with the 3rd largest startup
ecosystem (with 100+ unicorns).

The change thus has
to come from within learning
from our experiences and mistakes
and our intelligence provides us
the ability to change.

Intelligence: the ability to change

It has been our "moral and
intellectual intelligence" that we
are now recognising the need
for nudging the behaviour to
sackle the climate catastrophe
with the LIFE (Lifestyle for
Environment) movement.

Intelligence provides
rational understanding and
deep analysis of diverse scenarios
which reflect the idea that
change is most desirable like

now we are embracing the world of Industrial Revolution 4.0 with focus on cutting edge critical analytical changing technologies like the IoT, Machine learning, AI, robotics and big data management.

our intelligence has strengthened our scientific temper with the spirit of inquiry and reform, that now we are even moving beyond the horizons of space with missions like Chandrayaan - 3, Aditya L1 Mission, Gaganyaan and NISAR mission.

Earlier even it was considered a taboo and unauspicious to even cross the seas, to go for voyages, but the human intelligence has shattered all these prejudicial myths and now not even exploring the sea but also beyond

the seas (like Sagarmala mission)
and beyond the space.

It is our intelligence
that has provided us the
ability to change and embrace
the changes, as the world is transient.

However, it should
be noted that in few instances
the "intelligence" also provides
the ability for "destructive change"
for instance the invention
of atom bombs, the weapons
of mass destruction (WMD) and
now even the bio-chemical
means of warfare.

Also it is not
only the "intelligence" which
provides the ability to change
but also the "moral strength
of the character", the personal
beliefs like an "open mind"

with egalitarian, inclusive values is "open to change" like the discourses on child rights, environmental justice, etc. which reflects having more than mere "intelligence".

Ignorance : Always afraid of change

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar highlighted that the ignorance is always skeptical to change because ignorance reflects darkness of mind and character.

To see the light of change we need to have the innovative prism to look into the change for instance the present world order reflects multilateralism and multipolarity which is often a contested issue as some people deny the idea of multipolarity.

The lack of the

ability to change reflects the
"status quoist approach" which
is detrimental not only for
individual progress but also
for "collective progress".

The reluctance to
change can result in the
"end of the idea" because it
will start to perish like
the "imperial ambition" of
conquering the world shattered
after the second world war
(1939-45) because the colonial
powers did not change their
discriminatory means of
exploitation leading to their
collapse.

For the change
to sustain our ideas also
should be noble with the vision
of welfare of the "humanity"
like we are pushing for the

idea of "good governance" using e-governance applications for doorstep public service delivery (JAM Trinity, UPI, Direct Benefit Transfers, etc.) to realize the vision of "welfare State".

Change: Path to Progress and Innovation

It is said that more than the revolutionary changes the evolutionary changes are much effective, like the ideas of multiculturalism, egalitarian society, challenging stereotypes and discriminatory practices.

we should thus always be open to "constructive change" and at the same time also put a check on "changes which threaten human unity" and "existence" (like the nuclear race, use of weapons of mass destruction, misuse of

dual use technologies in space,
cyberspace and medical field).

we all together
have to embrace these changes
whereby "we should open our
hands to accept the change
but at the same time do not
let our values go away."

thus we need to
accept the idea that change
is inevitable like we never
thought that we can connect to
the whole world with just a
"single touch" of our smartphones,
but now we have this "change"
as a "reality".

Thus as discussed
in the beginning we should be
open to the changes and "be
the change we want in this
world because: "the world is
not merely changed by our
opinions but by our examples", as
"It is better to light a candle
than to curse the darkness".

